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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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ANALYSIS OF AMERICA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS IRAN

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Mar 80 pp 44-45

[Article by Ahmad al-Sayyid: "The Islamic Center for Studies and Research: America Vis-a-vis the Islamic Gun"]

[Text] It can be said that there exists no conceptualization of or firm norms about political events and positions [sic], and this applies to Islamic perception of contemporary political events. This is the result of the absence of research and study centers which have a primarily scientific nature and which would be relied upon to issue resolutions and articulate positions on the various issues.

This said, what is then the truth about the Iranian developments? Let us present a set of facts which would help us understand, contemplate and predict:

1--According to the most accurate scientific analyses, the last quarter of the twentieth century is witnessing the unfolding of the internal weaknesses of the two superpowers and the emergence of a new international force. It is witnessing as well the decline of ideologies and the emergence of religion as a significant and influential factor.

2--Iran's siding with the Arab states can lead to a balance between the Arab states and Israel, since Iran has an unequalled and huge arsenal of weapons. It is were possible to channel these weapons into the Arab region, then it would be possible to destroy Israel. Is there an Arab well capable of utilizing the situation to its advantage?

3--To the United States, Iran represents a lucrative market for American arms and various other products. It is thus important to the American dollar. In addition, Iran is a source of oil supplies to the United States. Therefore, Iran continues to be important to the United States even after the demise of its role as the region's policeman.

4--Iran is also important to the Soviet Union. The eastern region of Iran is the source of gas which is the mainstay of industry in the southern regions of the Soviet Union. This, in addition to the importance of Iranian oil to the Soviet Union.

5--Iran's location commands the Arabian Gulf. It is known that the United States is no longer interested in the heartland of the Middle East, but only interested in the Gulf region.

6--Iran shares 1,200 kilometers of borders with the Soviet Union. Accordingly, the Soviet Union would not permit an American intervention in Iran similar to the intervention in Vietnam.

7--The real strength of any revolution can be measured in two variables: a) continuity, and, b) the ability to destroy. In that sense, the Iranian revolution has achieved real success. A revolution does not build at the outset, it only destroys. Often, the revolution's first leader ends under the guillotine. Khomeyni's success lies in his ability to destroy the structure that existed. The task of building belongs to the leaders who shall follow him, because construction can only proceed after corruption had been destroyed.

8--The success of the Iranian revolution will make possible the emergency of an alliance among the Shi'ites in Iran, Iraq, the Gulf and Lebanon, then the expansion of the Shi'ite influence westward into the Mediterranean coastline until it merges with the eastward Islamic current emerging out of Pakistan.

Elements of Strength in the Iranian Revolution

A) The salvation of the Iranian people from the process of moral rape and disintegration conducted by the American policy in Iran, as well as from the vigorous attempts of that policy to extirpate Iran's Islamic identity, resurrect the ancient Persian identity and link it to Western thought.

B) The revolutionary traditions in Iran. Revolution in Iran is a historical legacy. Khomeyni's revolution is only a link in a chain of great revolutions.

C) The application of the element of religious organization in the Shi'ite sect on the political level. This was one of the elements of success in the Iranian revolution.

D) The weakness and corruption of the shah's regime and the depth of class contradictions under his regime.

The Crisis of the American Hostages

This crisis can be analyzed from two basic angles: One--The shah's importance to America. Two--The shah's importance to Iran.

One--The shah's importance to the United States: 1) America cannot hand over the shah, because this would mean that America, as the greatest power on earth, has capitulated to a nascent state--a state which it has groomed. This would damage America's image and prestige in the world. 2) Handing over the shah would mean that America is unable to and cannot protect the regimes that are allied with it, which would jeopardize its interests on a global scale. 3) President Carter feels that he is personally responsible for this crisis by allowing the shah to come to America. He also knows that if he mishandles the situation, it would be damaging for him in the upcoming elections. 4) There are people who are benefiting from the shah's billions which are deposited in American banks and which would create a major impact if they were withdrawn at once. Add to this some personal beneficiaries of those billions--people like Henry Kissinger (a Jew).

Two--The shah's importance to Iran: 1) The religious, Islamic importance of imposing legal punishment in addition to the moral importance of such a measure. The application of legal punishment will cure the injured Iranian people whose sons had been victimized by the shah and his bloody regime. 2) To a nascent state based on Islamic law and principles, trying the shah would mean that any individual, no matter how powerful or privileged, is the same as anybody else before God's law and tenets. Trying the king of kings of Iran will demonstrate to all Iranians that God's will is invincible. 3) As it sets out to build the Islamic state amid worldwide hostility and serious challenges, the Iranian revolution is in dire need for the funds which have been smuggled abroad by the shah. This wealth, both in cash and gold, is estimated in the thousands of billions. The people who have suffered bitterly during the shah's regime are entitled to benefit from this wealth and recoup some of their losses, instead of this wealth going to the benefit of America and its economy and instead of having the Jews deviously utilize this wealth through Kissinger and other professional practitioners of politics and economics.

America, War and Self-restraint

While America is threatening Iran with a military strike and its fleet is moving to encircle the borders of Iran, it will think a thousand times before taking any such step, for the following reasons:

1--The region of Iran and its surroundings (the nations of the Islamic axis--Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan) is one which affects the security of the Soviet Union and can inflame the area adjacent to the Soviet Union's southern borders (Tashkent, Bukhara, Kurdistan and Azerbaidzhan). Moslem Russians make up the overwhelming majority in those areas (60 million). This, in addition to the war between the Afghan Moslem rebels and the Russian forces.

2-- There is a disagreement between the West European powers of NATO and the United States over American policy and the extent to which Europe can be embroiled in problems which are of concern only to America. The West

Europeans are seeking to establish their independence from America and be a separate force. An American involvement in war would result in the stoppage of oil supplies from the Moslem east. Europe would thus be harmed and America would be unable to safeguard it against the consequences of such a situation. At the end of the 1973 war, former President Nixon said: "One of the main factors which gave a great push to our efforts to solve this crisis is the impact of the oil embargo. Europe which gets 80 percent of its oil from the Middle East could have frozen to death this winter unless we came up with a solution. And this goes for Japan too.

3--After a long search, the American government could do nothing but freeze Iranian deposits in American and English banks as a deterrent response to the taking of the hostages. Actually, this is a double-edged action, for while it would deprive Iran of its assets, it would also prove to be counterproductive insofar as the American economy is concerned, for the following reasons: A) The Iranian government has declared that it will not deal in the American dollar in its oil trade. In so doing, it dealt the American dollar a serious blow which would add to its weakness. Iran has also declared that it will not settle its debts to America. B) Burhan Dajani, president of the Federation of Arab chambers of commerce, has stated that the freezing of Iranian assets in the United States would harm Arab-American economic relations and weaken the determination of the Arab oil-producing countries to continue using the dollar in their oil accounts. Indeed, Arab investors have withdrawn large sums of their funds and deposits for fear that those deposits would face the same fate. (FYI: According to figures released in 1979, the volume of Arab-American trade in 1978 stood at \$35 billion.)

4--America's military power cannot, of course, be compared with Iran's military power. At the same time, however, America, which has groomed and built Iran's military power, knows that it is a considerable power which cannot be underrated. America has been saying that Iran is the strongest military power in the Middle East.

5--The president of Pakistan Ziaul Haq has declared that he would fight alongside Iran if America intervened. Libya has also declared that it would join the war (although we do not trust al-Qadhdhafi's statements). This means that the war would not be confined to Iran, but would extend to the entire Moslem east. This became clear through the attacks on America's embassies in the Moslem east, such as India, Pakistan, Libya and others and through the American government's action of withdrawing its citizens from 13 Islamic states.

6--If America ever attempted to strike at the Moslem Iranian people, its action would conflict with the slogan of human rights and justice that it has been raising. At any rate, the veracity of this slogan was clearly discredited by the Vietnam war, SAVAK and the shah's regime, the abandonment of Pakistan during the Indian-Pakistani war and other demonstrations of the "purity" of the human rights slogan raised by America.

AL-AZHAR RALLY DECRIES AFGHANISTAN INVASION

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Mar 80 pp 60, 61

[Article: "A Large Islamic Rally at Al-Azhar"]

[Text] Thousands of young Azharites and members of varsity Islamic Groups gathered at the Al-Azhar mosque following Friday prayers on 29 Sifir to participate in the massive Islamic rally organized by the Islamic Group at Al-Azhar to protest events in Islamic Afghanistan and to counter the campaigns which are being mounted nowadays against Islam and Islamic youth.

At Al-Minya University, an Islamic rally was held on Friday, 7 Rabi' al-Awwal, and was attended by Mr 'Umar al-Tilimsani. Islamic rallies for the same purpose were also held at the universities of Tanta, al-Mansurah and Alexandria.

The Al-Azhar rally was attended by a number of Islamic advocates, including Mr 'Umar al-Tilimsani, Mr Mustafa Mashhur, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Dasuqi Mar'i, undersecretary of the ministry of waqfs, member of the People's Assembly Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il and Mr Harun al-Mujaddidi, representative of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

Recommendations Adopted by the Rally

The rally adopted the following recommendations:

One--The rally calls upon the peoples and governments of the Islamic nation to support the Afghan strugglers with all the money, arms and men that they need and to supply them with doctors, medicines and field hospitals.

Two--The rally calls upon the official quarters to facilitate the task of training to use weapons and to make it easy for the jihad battalions to travel. The Islamic Group announces that it is keeping the door open to volunteers and to all monetary contributions to the families of the Afghan strugglers. Registration and contributions can be made at the offices of AL-DA'WAH and the Salah al-Din mosque at Al-Manyal.

Three--The rally calls upon the Islamic governments and peoples to break off all relations with atheistic Russia--including economic, cultural, political and military relations--in deference to Islam.

Four--The rally declares that the lands of Islam which had fallen earlier are no less sanctified than Afghanistan and that efforts and determination be rallied to liberate those lands, beginning with Andalusia and including Palestine and Jerusalem.

Five--The rally warns against the recognition of the state of Israel and calls for withdrawal of that recognition and for the economic, cultural and political boycott of Israel.

Six--The rally urges all Moslems to boycott all Israeli books, newspapers, programs, films and goods and to refrain from buying them.

Seven--The rally warns all Moslems against involvement in suspicious clubs, such as the Rotary clubs and other cells of international Masonry which are in fact cells of Zionism.

Eight--The rally calls upon the People's Assembly to speed the issuance of laws which would apply Islamic law, and recommends that a rally be held shortly to follow up this matter.

Nine--The rally believes that the Islamic nation is today in need of the leadership of Al-Azhar more than any time before. It recommends therefore that the usurped waqfs of Al-Azhar be returned, that the board of high ulema be reinstated and that the rector of Al-Azhar be elected by the Moslem ulema all over the world, so that Moslems may renew their trust and confidence in their Al-Azhar.

Ten--Finally, the rally demands an end to the campaigns of distortion and aspersion directed against the Islamic youth as represented by the Islamic Groups, and demands that those responsible for such campaigns be brought to account.

Minutes of the Rally

The rally began following the Friday prayers with a recital from the Koran. Brother Ahmad 'Umar then spoke on behalf of the Islamic Groups. He said: God's anger has befallen the Islamic nation since it doffed the mantle of dignity and pride and accepted to wear the gown of humiliation among nations. The problem is that of the dignity and pride which God has taken away from our nation after it has compromised on what is good and accepted what is accessible and near and after it had drifted away from its Islam, Koran, the law of its God and the tenets laid down by God's prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation.

The Islamic Nation Adrift

The rally was then addressed by his eminence Shaykh Ibrahim al-Dasuqi Mar'i, undersecretary of the ministry of waqfs, who said: The Islamic nation is adrift and on the way to decline. God has planted weakness in the hearts of its sons and removed fear from the hearts of its enemies, because the Moslems have steered away from God's law and abandoned the duty of Jihad. At the end of his speech, he called for cooperation with the youth of the varsity Islamic Groups because they are youngmen who know God and abide by and work for Islam.

Afghanistan Is Your Land

The floor was then given to Harun al-Mujaddidi of Afghanistan who has lost about 70 members of his family when they were killed at one and the same time. With tears in his eyes, he said: We are the brethren of Islam, your brethren. We in Afghanistan, the steadfast land of Islam, struggle against atheism and refuse to accept anything other than Islam. The Moslems in Afghanistan are suffering a great deal in order to safeguard and protect their religion--a religion of which every God-loving Afghani Moslem is proud. Stand by us so that the banner of Islam may flutter high and proud and so that the call of "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet" may ring in every part of the world, God willing.

Mr Harun al-Majaudidi urged all the peoples and governments of the Islamic countries to extend a hand of help and support to their brethren, the Moslem people of Afghanistan, so that they may achieve great victory against atheism and its advocates. He added: The occupation of Afghanistan has serious consequences for the Arab and Islamic states because that occupation aims at destroying the rest of the Moslems.

Door of Registration Still Open to Volunteers

Following the afternoon prayer, Mr 'Umar al-Tilimsani addressed the rally. He said: I declare to you from here that persons who wish to volunteer for jihad to help the rebels of Moslem Afghanistan in their war against atheism can now register themselves at the offices of AL-DA'WAH on Suq al-Tawfiqiyah street. This is not meant to be a challenge to anyone. It is only an appeal. It is indeed a duty imposed on us until the day of reckoning--the duty of jihad which requires us to rally to the cause of God from all fringes of the world in order to defend our religion and the glory of our Islamic nation and to retrieve the usurped Islamic lands, including the Islamic republics in the Soviet Union, Andalusia, Palestine down to bleeding Afghanistan.

Mr 'Umar al-Tilimsani went on to say: The weakness of nations is not due to the lack of arms or equipment, but to weak hearts, tyranny and the loss of self-confidence. Weapons can be made, sold or bought. But Islam, dignity and pride cannot be sold or bought.

At the end of his speech, Mr al-Tijjani urged the youth to be practical instead of uttering slogans and bewailing Afghanistan and other usurped lands of Islam. We have to work in the ranks of men, he said, and to act with the strength of believers and the loyalty of those who believe in the unity of God so that we may attain the goal which we seek and so that Islam and the Moslems may achieve victory.

At the end of the rally, Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, an Al-Azhar scholar and a member of the People's Assembly, addressed the rally. He said: Our abandonment of God's law has afflicted us with many things, of which I will mention humiliation, poverty and division.

Regrettable Arab Stand on Afghanistan

Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il added: Most regrettably, we have seen some Arab states bless the Communist aggression against Moslem Afghanistan and praise the atheistic Russian attack. We had expected that the plight of Afghanistan would have aroused those states which unfortunately have instead wallowed in defeat and forsaken their principles. We had expected that the colossal events there would have driven those states to declare jihad for the sake of God and that what had befallen our brethren in creed would have incited them to take up arms and embark on jihad for the sake of God. But defeat and humiliation have overtaken us.

The Jews: the Source of Treason

Commenting on the normalization of relations with Israel, Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il said: The Jews are people who betray vows and covenants. The Koran has described them and explained their treachery in detail. We should draw a lesson from those verses as well as from reality.

Shaykh Abu Isma'il went on: I have stood up at the People's Assembly to voice my rejection of the Camp David accords, because they prescribe a peace with the aggressors, and I demanded the severance of all our links with America because they are links with those who stand behind the aggressors.

As the rally ended, the youth were bubbling with true Islamic sentiment and their thoughts were with their brethren in every land in which the advocates of Islam are being persecuted by the enemies of the unity of God.

The holding of the rally was overseen by brother Dr 'Isam al-'Aryan, secretary of the rally who closed the rally with a reading of the aforementioned resolutions.

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BRIEFS

COLLEGE OF ISLAMIC INFORMATION--It has been decided to convert the journalism and information section at Al-Azhar University's College of Arabic into an independent college of Islamic information and humanities, effective the new college year. This decision has been preceded by the opening of a higher studies section at the department of journalism and information. No decision has been made yet on the location of the new college, according to the head of Islamic information section at Al-Azhar University who announced the news of the new college. AL-DA'WAH had taken up this issue in the edition before the last one, during an interview with Dr Ibrahim Imam, head of the section. The magazine urged the officials at the Al-Azhar Mosque and university to convert this section into a college because it has been originally established to serve Islam and Moslems. [Basyuni al-Halawani] [Text] [Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Mar 80 p 60] 9254

APPEAL BY AFGHAN STUDENTS--The Afghan Students Union in the Egyptian Arab Republic has appealed to the governments and peoples of the world in general, and the governments and peoples of the Arab and Islamic states in particular, to break off political, economic, military and cultural relations with the Soviet Union after the atheistic invasion of Islamic Afghanistan. The union demanded that the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council adopt resolutions and legal measures to force the Russians to take their sinful hands off the Moslem people of Afghanistan. It has also urged the Islamic and Arab peoples to help the Moslem rebels with money and equipment so that they may be able to stand in the face of atheism and retrieve their land from the claws of the Russian bear. [Text] [Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Mar 80 p 61] 9254

ISLAMIC CAMP IN ITALY--The Moslem Students Union in Italy organized a three-day camp late in December under a slogan drawn from the Koranic verse, "And prepare for them whatever strength you can muster." Lectures dealt with the meaning of this verse. Among the aspects of strength mentioned during the lectures were the power of belief and creed, the power of unity and association, the unity of the arm and the gun and finally the power of science and money. The songs and slogans were in line with the slogan of the camp, especially during this period in which our Afghan brethren are facing the savage onslaught of the atheistic communist invasion. A large number of people attended the camp. Attendance was nearly double the expected size. Among the lecturers who spoke at the camp was Mustafa Mashhur who represented AL-DA'WAH magazine. [Text] [Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Mar 80 p 61] 9254

ASPECTS OF SOVIET COUP IN KABUL ANALYZED

Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 14 Feb 80 p 4

[Article by Ismael Lopez Munoz: "Afghanistan Between Islam and Communism-- Soviet Intervention, an Operation Planned a Long Time in Advance"]

[Text] The Soviets arrived in Afghanistan with everything thoroughly planned. A new start had to be made. To do so it was necessary to begin by maintaining military control over a country which during the previous year had suffered many losses and desertion by its officers and soldiers. With an indolent and undisciplined army having outdated weapons that the majority did not know how to handle either, the first step was to seize the country militarily. In 3 days, from 24 to 27 December, the Tashkent-Kabul airlift went on without stopping, one plane after another. In January, the arrival of troops and materiel continued. Soviet soldiers and tanks occupied the country's key positions. The figure of 100,000 men is too low. It is naive to think that after making this effort they would then leave the country prior to 20 February.

But the new Afghanistan they want to build is no longer to be based on the Revolutionary Council nor on the government although both political instruments are still preserved. It is the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] which has the strength and is at this time being reorganized, made up essentially of members of the Parcham Party, the faction most loyal to Moscow proscribed by the Amin regime, and who represent the intellectual groups of the urban centers, while the Khalq are stronger in the rural sectors. Restoring its ranks whose cadres were most of all reduced in a country where the communist movement was limited, is not an easy task.

A plenary session of the central committee held recently adopted a resolution on the party's organizational unity. According to its own sources: "Our principal merit is that there are no factions now, we are a single and united party," 90 percent of it consisting of Parcham Party members. The majority of the Khalq, followers of Amin, were expelled and in some instances imprisoned "for common crimes." The central committee consists of 36 individuals and eight candidates. The political bureau includes the seven most representative names in the country at the present time ranging from Karmal to

Panjsheri who held important posts after 27 April 1978. At the present time the Kabul committee's bureau is the only one functioning and the party's leaders in the remaining 27 provinces are in the process of being changed for the purpose of preparing for the party congress that will probably be held in April in conjunction with the second anniversary of the revolution.

There also still remains the Revolutionary Council which has legislative functions, made up of 57 individuals among whom a few independents. In the present government there appear too as "supporters" the ministers of agriculture, commerce and public health. The main mission the party leaders are now carrying out is that of keeping a dialogue going with representatives of the various social and religious circles for the purpose of organizing the National Front.

It seems incongruous that in the most recent distribution of positions there should repeatedly appear the names of people who were already with the two previous presidents and a few of them like Ismail Panesh with the same portfolio of Mines and Industry, along with Taraki, Amin and now Karmal. It is similarly curious that Colonel Aslam Watanjar who held such a "decisive" post as that of minister of interior with the Amin of the reprisals should now have returned as minister of communications; it is certainly a fact that in recent months he was excluded from the government along with another colonel Masdooyar.

Both of them were definitely involved in the coup d'etat against Daud. Watanjar personally commanded the tanks in the attack on the presidential palace.

When President Babrak Karmal has as yet hardly begun to govern his country, there is already talk of his possible replacement that has to wait a few months until the development of coming events is seen. Foreign observers in Kabul told us that in this most recent Soviet change over operation "Karmal was not exactly the most suitable person although he was perhaps chosen by the Kremlin to maneuver without any problems in the initial decisive intervening."

There is juggling with the names of two generals, Qader, a member of the central committee and of the Revolutionary Council's presidium, who as minister of defense was put in prison by the other candidate to take over from Karmal, General Watanjar, when the latter was minister of interior. Two civilians: Jalalar, minister of commerce, and Wakil, minister of finance, offer possibilities too. Wakil was in exile in the Soviet Union and returned clandestinely to prepare the recent coup d'etat.

Of the three pillars on which the previous regime was based: The army is demoralized, the party divided, and as for the police, the real master of the situation, according to official propaganda, it has been completely disbanded. On orders from the government, KAM, the political police, was recently abolished. In its stead, controls in public buildings, certain hotels, bars and

restaurants are carried out by youths, most of them university students, a few of whom are advised by Soviet comrades who diligently exercise their role as counselors.

The Country's Population

The foundations for creating the new state are being consolidated where their administrative form is concerned although the country continues to be paralyzed. Ninety percent of the officials have been replaced in a few ministries and virtually all of the clerks have no work to do; the illiterate citizen who went up to a small stand at the gate to official buildings to have some petition filled out now knows that is futile, no one is going to resolve anything for him yet however many petitions may be written.

These people imbedded in religious and social opposition to progress, whose country has for centuries been considered barred to the outside, feudal with a Sunni Moslem tradition and whose only absorbing interests have been women, the land and religion, a country where 90 percent of the men and 95 percent of the women are illiterate, is one of the poorest nations, but one with some relatively good economic possibilities and with a future, but in the meanwhile it has a 139 per 1,000 infant mortality rate.

Of the 21,000,000 Afghans, 10,000,000 live in rural areas and 3,000,000 are nomads, many of whom move to the pasture lands of Pakistan in the spring, returning in winter to their native areas.

In connection with this transhumance, the present minister of frontier affairs, Faiz Mohamed, has charged Pakistan with creating an artificial problem of the Afghan refugees: "Emigration," he says, "was always accepted, but recently the Pakistani are not allowing many people to return and a few are detained."

8094
CSO: 4410

AFGHANISTAN

HAVANA BACKS KARMAL GOVERNMENT CHARGES AGAINST UNITED STATES

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 15 Feb 80 pp 58, 59

[Article by Tomas A. Granados, special correspondent for PRENSA LATINA: "Afghanistan Today"]

[Text] Far from the frozen spurs that surround Kabul Valley, in the warm climate of southern Afghanistan, the city of Kandahar still takes pride in having been the first capital of Afghanistan more than two centuries ago.

In this same area, some 450 kilometers southwest of Kabul, Alexander the Great founded Alexandria of Arachosia which was later disputed by Safavids and Mongols until an Afghan king named Ahmad Shah Durrani defeated both rivals. He occupied most of their territory and built this city in 1747 as the center of the first Afghan kingdom, most of which is modern Afghanistan.

Kandahar is the second largest city in this Central Asian country with a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants. They live their lives on dusty streets only 90 kilometers from the Pakistani border. There U.S. and Chinese military instructors organize and train mercenaries to fight against Afghanistan.

The Afghan in this region is as solid as granite, due perhaps to his ancestral battle to survive in this semiarid area which is reminiscent of "The Thousands and One Nights."

Perhaps for that reason, the residents of Kandahar do not show concern even though this city was the scene of outrages by a counterrevolutionary band last 1 January. More than 10 people were murdered by the band which dynamited a school and other public centers before being wiped out by security forces.

After a rough trip, our "jeep" stopped at the edge of an embankment to let a column of light armored cars used to transport troops pass.

Since the beginning of the year, the forces of the 2nd Armed Corps of Kandahar have not eased up on counterrevolutionary bands that operate from Pakistani territory to destabilize life in this region in southern Afghanistan.

Capt Mohammad Ahad, now acting as host to a group of foreign correspondents visiting this province, pointed to some low mountains and said that the bases of six enemy bands are on the other side on Pakistani soil. Each one has at least 400 members who fight against Afghanistan.

One of the chiefs of those counterrevolutionary bands is a former major in the Afghan Army known as Ismatullah. His headquarters are in the Pakistani town of Passin. The other chiefs are former land-owners affected by the agrarian reform law.

It is known that Ismatullah maintains close ties with top people in the Pakistani Government. He was present at the welcome for Huang Hua, Chinese foreign minister, during his recent visit to Peshawar, the alleged center of operations against Afghanistan.

During actions against the bands trained by Americans and Chinese in Pakistan, the Afghan Armed Forces captured three mortars and other Chinese weapons. The pockets of the prisoners contained documents written in Chinese and U.S. dollars, according to local military sources.

According to official information, more than 73,000 counterrevolutionaries are being trained in Pakistani territory. It is also possible that a great part of the more than \$100 million in weapons that the United States is sending to Pakistan will end up in the hands of those mercenary forces.

This interference by Washington in Afghan internal affairs, through the organization and supply of arms to counterrevolutionary bands, reached new dimensions with the visit of U.S. presidential adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski to Pakistan. He toured Peshawar at the beginning of this month as the Chinese foreign minister did earlier.

It is certain that the United States is carrying out a three-stage plan to transport its troops to Pakistan. Local observers feel that Brzezinski's visit was related to that.

Maneuvers by Washington and Beijing in this part of Asia seem to be aimed at converting this area into a hot spot of the Cold war which they want to revive.

According to charges made here, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency planned to carry out a counterrevolutionary coup last 29 December in collaboration with the deposed Hafizulla Amin with foreign support.

Afghan authorities have reiterated that Soviet military aid was requested to prevent aggression, not to involve them in the current operations against the terrorist gangs and especially not to attack any neighboring country. This is not its custom.

Our tour confirmed the statements of the government which Babrak Kar-mal has headed since the end of December. It was easy to verify that surveillance on highways and at checkpoints established on provincial borders, protection of cities and towns as well as the command and execution of military operations and other normal activities are being done by the Afghan Army.

According to statements by Maj Mohammad Kabir Manwani, chief of the 7th Afghan Division in Rashjor, Afghanistan's enemies are trying to turn the people against the revolution through the use of intensive propaganda.

The Afghan officer stated: "The psychological war that they are waging against us is extraordinary."

The present slander campaign exploits the fact that the people are still illiterate and tied to their traditions in order to spread rumors like, for example, that the young women will be sent to the Soviet Union.

"When our people see that everything is false, the concern will end," Major Kabir stated.

Along with this propaganda against Afghanistan, the reactionary forces grouped in terrorist bands commit sabotage and murders to create panic among the people.

One of the favorite targets is sabotage of food shipments to the people and cities to cause shortages and increased prices of essential articles.

Another target is the schools where the new generation of Afghans is being educated.

On the way back to Kabul, the residents of small towns had not forgotten the custom of greeting visitors, offering them skillful crafts or unsweetened green tea, according to the ancient customs of a hospitable people.

7717

CSO: 3010

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN INTERNAL DISSENSION DISCUSSED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 22

[Article: "Bouteflika Exits, But Discord Continues; Appointment of Trusted Men Around President Chadli Highlights Recent Reshuffle; Same Problems Persist: Arabization and Industrialization"]

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has made some changes in the country's administration. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who was a minister counselor to the president, and chief of the Muhasabat Court, is appointed chairman of the Culture and Information Committee and the Education Committee. He succeeds Boualem Bouhamouda who has become Minister of the Interior. This post was previously held by Prime Minister Ahmed Abdelghani.

The importance of these changes is the absence of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was another minister counselor to the president. After 17 years as minister of foreign affairs, Bouteflika no longer has any duties in Abdelghani's government. Although President Bendjedid appointed him as Minister counselor last February, President Boumediene's right hand man has been spending most of his time in medical treatment or outside the country, isolated from political life. However, he is still a member of the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front [FLN], and, in this capacity, he attended the second session of the Central Committee at the beginning of this year. But it has become difficult for Bouteflika to pursue any political activity because of the deterioration of his health.

One of the results of this development is that the technocrats and bourgeoisie, who looked at Bouteflika as accessible to the private sector at home and to the western nations, will rally from now on around former Minister of Petroleum Belaid Abdelsalem. Some observers go so far as to say that with the exit of Bouteflika, President Chadli has gotten rid of one of the power centers of the Boumediene regime, and that Chadli is trying to surround himself with trusted men, such as Slimane (Hoffman) and Mohamed Ali Ammar, both members of the Central Committee of the FLN. He appointed them chairmen of the International Relations Committee and the Political Training and Studies Committee of the FLN, despite the fact that,

under party by-laws, the chairmanship of these two committees is reserved to members of the political bureau, not the Central Committee. There is also Merbah, the secretary general of the ministry of defense, who is in charge of affairs relating to the Western Sahara dispute.

President Chadli's selection is attributed to several considerations. Ibrahimi is the voice of conservative circles, has considerable influence with Arabic-language news media, and was minister of education. Therefore, he might play an effective role in crystallizing FLN policy on the problem of education with a view to reviving the Arabic language in the administration and in instruction especially as the students strike demanding Arabization is entering its second month.

Observers consider the question of Arabization to be one of the principal tests of strength between the "Arabicized" and the "Frenchified". It is not unlikely that the strikers will receive encouragement, although indirectly, from Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, the coordinator of the FLN.

Because Ibrahimi was a former minister of information, it is expected that he will give new direction to the media, which (is supposed to) deal with the most serious problems facing the country, within the bounds of the basic preferences of the State. In the past few weeks, the media gave the first evidence of dissension when it totally ignored the dismissal of more than 100 workers from one of the print shops in Blida. [It also ignored] the Blida Workers Union affiliated with the FLN.

Containing Dissension

Observers say that President Chadli will attempt to contain the discord which can no longer be concealed within the (party apparatus) and the state, concerning the pivotal questions of industrialization and education, by pursuing very cautiously the policy of reexamining these questions. Accordingly, in its recent meeting, the Central Committee [of the FLN] resolved to implement a major industrialization program which calls for large cutbacks in exports of oil and natural gas to Morocco, instead of selling these for foreign currency. The program also provides for the development of alternate sources of energy. The program would also gradually reduce foreign assistance, and would confine imports to commodities not produced in Algeria. This is a clear challenge to those who bet on an accelerated rate of industrialization, even at the high price of sacrificing some of the country's basic needs. This topic will dominate the deliberations of the forthcoming extraordinary congress of the FLN. In the meantime, however, President Chadli will make further important decisions of his own.

Arabization: The Opposition's Core

The strikes which began in the latter part of last year, continue. Labor strikes, followed by secondary school student strikes, followed by law and science student strikes for arabization which have spread from the University of Algiers to the universities of Constantine, Oran and Annaba, present a gloomy reality behind a facade of stability in Algeria.

The strike of the "Arabizationists" to achieve complete arabization in public administration agencies and to create sufficient jobs for university graduates, is entering its second month. It is likely that it will continue at least until the end of the present month. This is so in spite of the fact that during its meeting at the beginning of this month, the FLN Central Committee acknowledged weaknesses in the educational system; admitted the existence of a problem arising from a struggle, resulting in social discrimination, between two curricula of instruction, one in French and one in Arabic; and was compelled to adopt a group of decisions, within a national program now under preparation to arabize the various levels of education and public administration.

It was expected, following the meeting of the Central Committee, that the strikers would resume their studies. However, they maintained their rigid position, on the grounds that these decisions would not improve their situation in the foreseeable future. They described the Central Committee's position regarding arabization as vague. Whatever methods Algerian officials use to deal with this complex case, it is unlikely that the FLN will retreat from its position of supporting arabization, but without haste. However, continuation of this student action might transform it from a mere student movement into an open public opposition, if the strikers decide to take to the streets where they might clash with members of the National Union of Algerian Youth, one of the mainstays of the ruling party. Note that, since the beginning of the strike, the Union's activists have been declaring on the front pages of the newspaper EL-MOUDJAHID that some suspicious elements--referring to the Moslem Brotherhood--had infiltrated student ranks to keep the issue astir. President Chadli joined the chorus of accusers, stating at the conclusion of the meeting of the Central Committee that he would stubbornly resist all those who attempt, by various means, to damage the revolution.

This campaign against the strikers, students and others, in reality reveals growing grievances within the government apparatus in Algeria, especially as in most instances these grievances find expression outside of organizations belonging to the FLN and the revolution, such as the National Union of Algerian Youth and the General Union of Algerian Workers.

Calming Decisions

While it is premature to predict where this social unrest will lead to, there is a basic fact which cannot be ignored in Algeria today. It is that the national ideology upon which the government relies to deal with social

problems is no longer effective. There is more than one reason for the bad odor of these problems. After more than 10 years of application, planned Algerian development has achieved economic and social results which are the complete opposite of the promises of the planners and their sponsors, namely increasing laxity and subservience of the economy, disintegration and division within industry and agriculture, and dangerous aggravation of unemployment. Additionally, there is the emergence of a class of technocrats, the increasingly large role of the private sector, the increase in the country's debts, and the rise in the rate of inflation to 16 percent.

From the beginning, Algerian officials could have foreseen the danger of rapid centralized industrialization and the conflicts it would inevitably create, the fact that it was an unrealistic course to take in the light of international and domestic market possibilities, the new forms of foreign influence, the new international (distribution of labor), and the specific class interests implicit in this type of economic venture.

In the face of these tense social conditions, the decisions adopted recently in favor of some sectors--such as increasing teachers and professors salaries by 25 percent, increasing the minimum wage for agricultural workers, encouraging production by means of material incentives, limiting imports of high technology, and avoiding foreign loans as much as possible to reduce the nation's debts and regionalize the national economy--are only intended to calm down the situation. In other words, the Algerian leadership is not thinking at all in terms of a comprehensive reevaluation of the industrialization experiment. All it wants to accomplish is to improve its administration. This means that the same basic problems and resultant explosive social discord will continue, unless the forthcoming extraordinary Congress of the FLN decides on a different course of action.

7005

CSO: 4402

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS DISCUSSED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21-27 Jan 80 pp 22,23

[Interview with the Algerian Ambassador to France, Mohamed Sahnoun:
"Beginning of a New Era in Relations With France"]

[Text] The French press has shown noteworthy interest in the arrival in Paris of the new Algerian ambassador, Mohamed Sahnoun. Newspaper LE MONDE published extensive portions of his speech before President d'Estaing, indicative of the fact that the occasion might mean the beginning of a new and positive stage in relations between the two countries, following the decline of the past few years. Ambassador Sahnoun met with AL-DUSTUR and answered a number of questions.

[Question] The first question concerns the visit of the Algerian foreign minister to Paris.

[Answer] First of all, I must emphasize that Algeria's policy toward France has always been based on clear principles and a firm posture. Our constant concern has been to gradually and harmoniously replace the ties inherited from the colonial era with new relations based on mutual respect, balanced interests and a desire to find a framework of cooperation beneficial to both sides.

The forthcoming visit of minister of foreign affairs Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia to France is a sequel to the visit of his French colleague Francois-Poncet [to Algeria] last June. Ben Yahia's trip, agreed upon during a meeting of the two ministers in Algiers, is expected to inaugurate a new era of fruitful consultations between the two countries.

The trip will no doubt permit the study of a broad range of Algerian-French relations and inject a new desire to strengthen and develop mutual relations. Algerian-French relations have risen above difficulties and misunderstandings to preserve the highest interests of both countries.

It should be indicated that the complexity of today's world and the intensity and variety of current problems call on us to seek more serious consultations and cooperation to reconcile our long term objectives and develop existing complementary interests.

[Question] What is your view regarding the speech delivered by Yahiaoui to the FLN?

[Answer] The speech to which you refer was aimed at outlining a new proposed framework for our relations with France. Cooperation is a definite necessity between our two countries. It is dictated by the complementary nature of our economies, geographic proximity, and common interests in the Mediterranean region. It is also dictated by the strong cultural relations and human bonds between our two peoples.

[Question] Noting that France's share in your [development] projects has markedly declined since 1976, what is the outlook for future economic relations?

[Answer] As regards economic exchanges, we have constantly stated our determination to alter our balance of trade with other nations, so as to put our relations on a basis of justice and mutual benefit. These have always been the guiding standards of our activity with regard to creation of a new international economic order as well as development of bilateral cooperation. There has in fact been a decline for some time in French participation in our development projects. But free competition has been the principal standard of selection in the transactions which we have concluded.

[Question] Are there any developments regarding the issue of Algerian workers in France?

[Answer] From our standpoint, we must say first of all that the phenomenon of migration [to France] was not created by independent Algeria, but was an inevitable legacy of colonialism. Everyone should be aware of the history of this migration. Algeria has always demonstrated its desire to eliminate this phenomenon by putting an end to migration. It is completely prepared today to overcome this problem on a gradual and final basis.

At present, we are devoting particular attention to the matter of maintaining the security and protecting the rights of our community of migrants [in France].

[Question] We think that the subject of the Sahara will be one of the main topics in the coming discussions between France and Algeria. How will this subject fit into relations between the two countries.

[Answer] As you know, Algeria is very concerned about peace and stability in the world, especially in the region to which we belong. The problem at issue in our region is the problem of liquidating colonialism. Therefore it has been the subject of profound study for a long time and a number of resolutions have been passed regarding it by regional and international organizations, including the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations. Today, Algeria, which works for abidance by and implementation of these resolutions, appreciates very much all positions [expressed by other nations] which take into account and respect these resolutions. Such positions play a large part in reducing the level of tension and permit effective application of the firm right of the Saharan people to self-determination.

[Question] Finally, what is Algeria's position regarding the French projects?

[Answer] Algeria has not taken any negative attitude toward the French projects. We believe that some aspects of French economic activity are compatible with our large development projects. As for the housing projects to which you refer, they are the object of considerable attention. The French side, which tries to find solutions in this regard, could play an important role in this sector.

7005

CSO: 4402

PLO ACTIVITIES CRITICIZED

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic 14 Jan 80 pp 7-9

[Article by 'Umar al-Talmasani: "Tricks of Israeli Shihah: PLO Involved in Political Tricks; Huge Concessions Offered to Israel"]

[Text] It is said that there was a man called Shihah who understood activities whose beginnings were not in keeping with their results. What he said never went along with what he did. The activities and behavior of anyone who follows his path are said to be "tricks of Shihah." I am reminded of him today by what we see in the Zionist arena and those who support it in the way of talk and actions which have absolutely no connection.

If an Israeli official makes a statement, the acts which follow these words completely contradict them. If they make a pledge, the fulfillment is the reverse of its wording, concept and requirements.

Everything that we read in the news about a dispute among its ministers, or division in the ranks of its people, or arguments between them and the United States and others: this is all of the type of "tricks of Shihah." The ministers and allies have one objective and that is a state of the Chosen People from Lebanon to Madinah, and from Tel Aviv to the eastern [word obliterated]. This is enough for them; they aspire to nothing else. All of them agree on this goal and they want no substitutes, neither the borders of 1948 nor the borders of 1967 nor of any other time. The whole world in general knows this, and the Islamic world in particular knows this. In spite of this the nations of the world recognized Israel in resolution 242 of 1967 which was issued by the United Nations in ignorance or neglect in the belief that Israel sees in this enough to achieve its ambitions and interpret its dreams. Now, what we see today are symptoms of disputes among the Israelis themselves or between them and their allies, for neither Camp David nor the peace treaty forces Israel to withdraw to the borders drawn up for it. In all of the statements of the Israeli officials, considered carefully, their honeyed words about peace and their laments over the injustice and oppression to which they have been subjected, there is nothing of use to this remarkable people. But I repeat that they are most loyal to their ambitions, most persistent in achieving them, and most

evil in achieving them. This is not a weakness in them; the weakness is a weakness of those who believe them, make peace with them and trust their promises.

Israel Refuses--Then Agrees

We read that the Palestinians are willing to enter into peace negotiations through a dialogue with Paul Findlay, an American congressman who arrived in Beirut to hold an open dialogue with the Palestinians. At the same time, in the month of August 1979, we read that the Israeli government refuses to have the PLO take part in any negotiations, now or in the future. Also, it decided not to cooperate in any way with the international supervision authority in Sinai. Did you believe any of this?? As for cooperation with the international supervision forces, it finally accepted them and welcomed them after it had rejected them. On Thursday, 11 October 1979 the American State Department (according to the newspaper AL-AKHBAR) announced yesterday that Israel had agreed in essence to the tripartite agreement which was reached in Washington concerning supervising the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. I do not think that this acceptance took place without Israel's receiving some form of payment. If not, what a coquette Israel was!!! As for its negotiating with the PLO, that will happen because all signs point to it. Israel is the coquette who refuses everything she wants at first and then accepts it as if she were compelled to under pressure!!

An American representative says that there are contacts between America and the PLO, and then Israel is aroused and protests against America because of these contacts. This strengthens the desire for these contacts, especially since they were undertaken by America, its beloved, nursemaid and protector, as was done in the Ramadan-October 1973 war. Foolish people or those who delude themselves believe that there is a dispute between Israel and the United States because of these contacts, when we are positive that the United States made these contacts only after informing and receiving approval from Israel, because it is America which accepted Young's resignation because he contacted the PLO before informing his government. All of this is happening at a time when the second official in the PLO is announcing the beginning of a dialogue between the PLO and America, and Carter is making statements concerning the Palestinian question. These statements are stirring up a crisis between the sweethearts in Washington and Tel Aviv and carrying a message from 'Arafat to the American government as part of the concentrated contacts now taking place between the Carter government and the PLO (AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM, 3 August 1979). We believe in turn that there are acute crisis between America and Israel, or it is intended that we believe that, even after a PLO representative acknowledged that the organization is willing to discuss recognizing Israel's right to exist and in spite of the fact that Walter Mondale, the American vice-president, said that US policy toward the PLO is still as it was and that the statements which were attributed to President Carter on this subject were distorted. Mondale delivered this statement on Israeli television (the news of 4 August 1979). Who do we believe?? Who do we

disbelieve? For my part, I consider these tricks ludicrous, and it is regrettable that the policy of states has sunk so low.

The American newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR announces that American-Israeli relations have deteriorated because of the violent disputes between the two countries. At the same time, the world is being told that the American State Department is denying Vance's meeting with 'Arafat! What happened to shame and diffidence? Have they left this earth forever??! Then we read in the newspapers that Yasir 'Arafat reconfirmed today that the PLO wants dialogue with America and that it is ready for this dialogue as of this moment. Robert Strauss, the American delegate in the Middle East, announces America's determination to include the Palestinians in the self-rule negotiations. Yasir 'Arafat, who accused the government of Egypt of all kinds of disgraceful behavior, is the one who is insisting on entering into talks with America and recognizing Israel's right to exist. Why the excitement, then, 'Arafat??!

Glaring Contradictions

All of these tricks and contradictions come in the news of Wednesday, 15 August 1979. Israel officially protests the meeting of Young, the American UN delegate, with the Plo representative. Carter believes that the Palestinians agree to Israel's right to exist. Carter's representative attends the Palestinian conference in Washington, which will be attended by a number of West Bank mayors. 'Arafat cancelled his visit to Jordan, and Begin may visit America next fall. Yadin is going to America today. The American-Israeli dispute has paralyzed Begin's government. All of these glaring contradictions are in one newspaper on one day. Is your head spinning?? If you are certain, if you were naive, then believe everything the politicians say this time. If you are one of those who analyzes with reflection and thought, then you let all of this nonsense pass by, because it is the character of the politics of this era.

On this occasion I say, in truth that if this is the concept of politics then the Islamic religion has absolutely no business in politics because it knows nothing about politics except what is true, just, and clearly advantageous to the interest of the nation and the citizen.

Recently we were confronted with a Jewish politician named Kreisky, chancellor of Austria, telling everyone that all of the European states will soon recognize the PLO. He also states that he is certain that the PLO is ready to recognize the state of Israel since all of the European states recognize the state of Israel. What are the nations of Europe waiting for to recognize the PLO?? Was all of this true?? Or is it haggling and trickery? Actually, the tricks of Shihah carried Yasir 'Arafat to the limit at which he states that he is willing to do anything in order to enter direct negotiations with America. Anything, 'Arafat?! Why this enthusiasm when America is Israel? And Israel denies your existence? And America does not recognize you unless you recognize Israel? You have

accepted recognition of this existence? At what border does it begin? Have you abandoned the principles on which the organization was founded? Or would it please you to be president of the republic of Palestine? What is the nature of this republic? What were the borders of this new Palestine? What has come over you kinsman? Made you renounce hope? Or made you weary? Or made you abandon the noble effort?

The Zionist disfiguration then begins from within Israel itself, devoted to distortion, deception and procrastination because they believe that time is on their side. If war should break out between America and Russia, for example, Israel would be a winner no matter what the outcome of this war. If Russia were defeated America would still be Israel's ally because it was singled out as the saboteur in this region, and the matter would proceed more easily by taking in the crusading hostility. If America were defeated Russia would be more interested in having Israel remain, because it would help them greatly in spreading heresy and decay among the Moslems.

The Israeli tricks began to be clearly revealed when informed Israeli sources confirmed that the majority of members of the Knesset approved dissolving the Knesset and holding new general elections. This is the first of the flood of tricks. The Knesset is dissolved, and 2 months later, more or less, the elections are held. After a period the council convenes, and then an old or new speech or argument takes place. Throughout this period the contact will remain, inactive or almost inactive. Months have passed, and Israel continues to crouch on its perch in the dear surrendered lands, changing their human, populational, and territorial geography without accounting or supervision. Time is on Israel's side, because it is not spending anything from its treasury. The pool lies in America, Russia and others, and in the Arab states whose billions swell the treasuries of the Jews in all the banks of the world. We can do nothing except to prop our chins on our hands and wait for these barefaced tricks to be revealed. We have nothing to do with the matter, because the whole world is waiting with us, content, smiling, laughing.

Three Concessions

America in turn is continuing in its position on the Palestinian question, and the press is saying that the American plan includes withdrawal of the Israelis and Palestinians from the south of Lebanon. What more does Israel want?! Where will the Palestinian resistance settle after it withdraws from southern Lebanon? The greatest disaster was that Yasir 'Arafat promised Sarkis that the resistance would withdraw from southern Lebanon, as if all had agreed to eliminate Palestinian resistance, in accordance with Israel's desire for peace which requires that all rights of Moslems on Palestinian soil be forfeited. The Palestinian question continues to diminish day after day, so that the black leader James Jackson confirmed on his arrival in New York that he had obtained three large concessions from the PLO:

1. An immediate ceasefire by the PLO in southern Lebanon.
2. Interpreting the PLO Charter as not aiming at the extermination of Israel.
3. Assurance that the Palestinian movement is aimed at creating a Palestinian nation, preferably in the West Bank and Gaza (news of Sunday, 7 October 1979). This report has not yet been denied by the PLO. I swear that I do not understand why the PLO takes this stand on the peace treaty, which we have opposed, we still oppose and we will continue to oppose until rights are completely restored to their owners. Why? There is only one explanation, and that is that America and its protege Israel want the Moslem states and their regimes to fight constantly so that Israel can obtain what it wants.

Israel is launching its raids against Lebanon. America issues a heated protest against these unjust raids, which used only the planes which America gave to Israel gratis. Carter promises Sarkis that these raids will be stopped, and Israel defies this pledge and continues with its raids, as I mentioned in another article. What is the practical result of this protest? A completely opposite tragic result. The American Senate by an overwhelming majority rejected a proposal to reduce military loans to Israel as punishment for using American-made planes to launch raids against southern Lebanon. The result of the vote was 87 to 7. They said that this reduction would be considered a sign of support for the PLO (AKHBAR AL-YAWM, 13 October 1979). This is America's support for the problem, and these are Carter's proposals. Did we act meanly when we said that the infidels are of one faith and that they are all conspiring against us?? Are not these promises and this pretense of support for the rights of Palestine, human rights, are they not some of the tricks of Shihah whose promises do not live up to their results? Or don't we understand anything that we read or hear or see??

Tricks of Shihah

These days they continue to lead us around by the nose and scorn our dreams. Dayan resigns because he has a dispute with Begin, and Weizman in turn threatens to resign, and we believe these tricks. An Egyptian official says that Dayan's resignation is a conviction of the settlements (AL-AKHBAR, Monday, 22 October 1979), and an Egyptian writer says that Dayan's resignation revealed splits within Begin's government and restored the interest of American public opinion in a complete settlement in the Middle East (AL-KHBAR, Tuesday, 23 October 1979). The Egyptian newspapers are delighted that the intensity of the crisis in Israel has doubled after the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court to halt the (Morea) settlement (AL-AHRAM, Monday, 22 October 1979). The Israeli government obeyed the decision of its Supreme Court to remove the settlement, and removed it and was silent. On the contrary, this is one of the tricks of Shihah. The Israeli

government started to talk about another site to establish the same settlement. A delegation from the Israeli peace movement comes to Egypt (AHRAM, Wednesday, 24 October 1979), as if we believe that all of these resignations, peace delegations and court ruling are a victory for right and justice.

But AL-AKHBAR on Thursday, 25 October 1979 shattered this false joy.

Strauss said that strong pressure under the auspices of the current political circumstances which face Begin's government had achieved an opposite result, and that the cornerstone of American policy in the region and the requirements of American interests there are preserving the stability and peace of the region and also guaranteeing the continued security and strength of Israel. Do you understand? Or do you still not understand, discriminating reader? Do you believe and trust that all of these attempts and resignations and dissolving the Knesset are occurring to enforce rights and restore justice (!!), and that Israel is yielding all of its ambitions and dreams? Indeed, Ariel Sharon, Israeli Minister of Agriculture, announced that he would submit his resignation from Begin's government if it decided to evacuate the Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank (AKHBAR AL-YAWM, 27 Oct 1979). Do you see how they refute one another? How are their tricks revealed? I have stopped short of telling of the ultimate trick. I offer you Kissinger describing one of the U.S. presidents, Lyndon Johnson, as sly and attempting to use cryptic expressions to discuss the Middle East issue. After the 1967 war he offered the Arabs meaningless words about American peace efforts, but he avoided any clearly defined discussion to solve the crisis (AL-AKHBAR, Friday, 2 November 1979). In the same paper on the same date, Musa Sabri said that the American ambassador woke Jamal 'Abd-al-Nassir at 0300 to warn him of the first blow.

Can you believe that the United States and Russia are not in agreement on a unified policy toward destroying the Moslems and strengthening Israel? The American ambassador was quicker than the Russian ambassador in warning 'Abd-al-Nassir of the first blow, although both America and Russia had known that Israel would strike immediately. What is that besides a trick??

As for the idea that all of these tricks are pulled to waste time, which Israel believes is in its favor, I did not invent that. Kissinger's shuttle preceded me, on the day that he published in his memoirs that Jarring's mission was a theatrical gimmick to waste time (AL-AKHBAR, Thursday, 1 November 1979). This mission of Jarring's, which I had forgotten, was the mission undertaken by Gunnar Jarring in 1970 on the question which was called at that time "movement of Egyptian missiles."

These are examples, because Israel's tricks are countless and innumerable, and they go on from month to month and from year to year until our determination weakens and we accept the fait accompli. There is no flaw in this plan for Israel, because it wants power and sovereignty for itself. The fault lies with the Islamic states which are fighting among themselves, and they are letting Israel's cancer worsen in their body until it destroys everything, for they will not repent until after they reach the bottom of

of the abyss (or when they are struck by disaster because of something they have done, and then they will say, I did this?? Rather, you did this yourselves!) O God, you are our strength, and there is no power and no strength save in God.

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CSO: 4802

EGYPT

NEW BRANCH OF MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD FORMED IN LUXOR

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 53

[Article: "Brotherhood in Luxor"]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Radi 'Abd-al-Karim Bik, former member of council of deputies, invited a group of prominent people to a meeting to set up a branch of the Moslem Brotherhood in Luxor. To conclude the meeting, speakers continually expounded on the true principles of the Moslem Brotherhood to raise the beacon of Islam and spread its true teachings.

It was decided to form a branch of the Moslem Brotherhood in Luxor as follows:

'Abd-al-Radi 'Abd-al-Karim Bik: President

'Abd-al-Karim Affandi al-Marsafi: Vice-President

Mahmud Mustafa al-Qadi: Treasurer

Sadiq Affandi Qanawi: Secretary

Professor Muhammad Yusuf al-Aqsari: Deputy of the Brotherhood

Hassn Muhammad al-Nubi, 'Abd-al-Fattah Affandi 'Abd-al-Rahim, 'Abd-al-Warith Ahmad, Shaykh Hanafi Mustafa, Shaykh Mahmud Yusuf, Shaykh Muhammad Hasan al-Tabakh, Bakri Mahjub al-Zayni, Amin Ibrahim, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad 'Atallah, Rashid Bakhit: Members.

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CSO: 4802

ISLAMIC LEAGUE SCORES VICTORIES IN STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 59

[Article by Badr Muhammad and Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud: In Spite of All Setbacks, Islamic Leagues Won!!]

[Text] When AL-DA'WAH has attacked the new student program and exposed its shortcomings and defects, it has been aimed at finding a true and natural situation within a framework of individual freedom for university students and has been an attempt to advance the student movement in Egypt, but since the new program has been applied, what has happened?

The university announced the date for nomination for elections for the new union. There was very little interest in the nominations in most colleges. For example, in the College of Learning 13 committee members won by attestation, and in one no one offered himself for candidacy. The elections were held in only six committees on the college level, and fourth-year students did not participate in the voting. Also, there was lack of interest in the elections, just as in the nominations. In the College of Law of Cairo University, the college was forced to nullify the elections because the legal number of ballots was not received in the two days set aside for the election.

But what about the position of the Islamic Leagues in these elections?

In all of the universities of Egypt the Islamic League submitted requests for the candidacy of its members for the Student Union elections, and most of the colleges approved the requests for candidacy. However, there are other colleges which rejected the candidacy of members of the League on the grounds that they are not active in the committee's field of work. Members of the Islamic League submitted proof of their activities to each committee, but most of the challenges submitted by them were rejected.

In the college of Science of Cairo University the League submitted applications for candidacy for 65 of its members. Of these 42 were rejected and 23 remained. As a result of challenges submitted, the college agreed to accept seven more, bringing the number to 30.

In the College of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University, the Islamic League refused to enter the elections in view of the college's position on the League, and they boycotted the elections.

In the College of Science, the college froze the second and third year elections after invalidating the candidacy of members of the Islamic League, and the dean held one of the members of the League as hostage!! So that the union would not become part of the Islamic League.

In the College of Engineering at 'Ayn Shams, the college administration dropped 13 members of the Islamic League, and the college agreed to accept them again after challenges were presented.

In the College of Medicine and the College of Education at 'Ayn Shams University a number of members of the Islamic League were also thrown out, and the League submitted challenges and some of them were accepted.

In spite of all of that, the Islamic League in most of the colleges won the secretariats of the committees and the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Medicine, the Islamic League won in four out of five committees and also won the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Agriculture it won the secretariat of the committees and also the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Engineering the Islamic League won the secretariat of the committees and the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Science the League won the secretariat of two committees and the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Learning the League won the secretariat of two committees and the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Dentistry the League won the secretariat of four committees. The strange thing is that when the secretary of the union was elected the League put up a candidate who obtained the votes of the four committees, while the opponent obtained his vote and the votes of the members of the faculty participating in the union, and the opponent won!

In the College of Business of Bani Suwayf the League won four committees and also the secretariat of the union, since the League's candidate received 11 votes while the rival received only one!

In the College of Business, the League won the secretariat of the Cultural and Technical Committee and the Social and Travel Committee but did not win the secretariat of the union.

In the College of Pharmacy the League won the secretariat of the Cultural and Technical Committee.

In the College of Antiquities the League also won the secretariat of the Cultural and Technical Committee.

In al-Minya University: The organization threw out most of the Islamic League candidates, and the students held several conferences at which students called for a boycott of the elections when the university eliminated several youths from the Islamic Leagues and then stipulated that it would pay the expenses of anyone who cast a vote.

In the face of this boycott the university administration was forced to relinquish the condition of paying expenses, but the students nevertheless refused to vote, in solidarity with the members of the Islamic League.

After all of this an important matter must be clear. That is, that any decision must be studied before it is taken so that it does not come up against raised slogans confirming freedom and the supremacy of the law, and so that all alert students--the hope of Egypt--remain committed to proper behavior free of bigotry.

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EGYPT

IRANIAN TERRORIST CONFESSES, ASKS FORGIVENESS

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Jan 80 pp 1, 3, 11

[Article: "Confessions of Leader of Iranian Terrorist Scheme; 'I Was Charged by Fida'iyan Islam Organization To Start Fires and Explosions in Egypt; Fid'iyah Islam Organization Trained Me To Manufacture and Use Hand Grenades and Incendiary Materials; Organization Deceived Me and I Discovered That Its Goals Were Far From Islam and From Religion'"]

[Text] Fallah al-Din Muhammad Kaji, the leader of the terrorist Iranian group who was arrested by the state security investigation at Cairo Airport on 21 December has revealed the secrets of the destructive plot that he had come to Egypt to carry out.

He said that he had been charged by the Fida'iyan Islam Organization, which is headed by Hujjat al-Islam al-Shaykh Muhammad Khalakhali, with setting terrorist fires and explosions in Cairo, in Alexandria, in Aswan and in the remaining Egyptian cities. He said that the organization had set the 10th of January for him as the date for carrying out these sabotage activities. He said that he had received training with other persons in a camp outside the city of Tehran in a method of manufacturing hand grenades and manufacturing and using incendiary materials. [He said] that he came to Egypt by airplane but that his colleagues would come by boat. He said, "They led me to believe that an Iranian citizen in Cairo would take us to the chemical warehouses where we would purchase chemical materials." He said, "They gave me 215,000 Iranian rials and promised be a big reward after my return to Tehran."

The leader of the terrorist scheme said in his confessions which were announced yesterday evening on Arabic television that [he realized] he had been deceived after he discovered the organization's destructive plans and realized that its goals were remote from Islam and from the true religion. He found out that the goals of the organization which had enlisted him were to kill the Shah and the well-known political figures.

The text of the confession that was made by the leader of the Iranian group follows.

"I am Fallah al-Din Muhammad Kaji (an Iranian citizen). I was born in the city of Baghdad in 1957 to an Iranian family. In 1971, following the crisis that took place between Iraq and Iran and the forced departure of the Iranians, we were expelled, and we went to the city of Tehran. I personally attended secondary school, and I finished secondary school in 1974. I entered the university in 1974. I entered the Department of Chemistry in the College of Sciences in the university of the city of ('Araj)."

First Political Demonstration

"The first political action or political demonstration [I was involved in] was one against the Shah in 1976. I was in [my] second year of college. I participated in the demonstration, and after we were all arrested, we were released. I came to hate political action, and I left politics until I finished the university in 1977.

"I joined the army after 5 months. I had been waiting to go into the service, and I did go into the artillery and missile branch. After an educational period of 6 months, I was assigned to a camp in the city of (Qasr Shirin) in West Iran near the Iraqi-Iranian borders. I was in the army during the revolution."

A Life of Chaos and Unemployment

"I completed my 1-year military service 4 months after the Iranian Revolution. I knew of course that life outside the camp was chaotic. There was unemployment, and there was an employment crisis. The first statistics that had been issued by the Iranian Ministry of Labor indicated that we had 150,000 university graduates in Iran who were waiting for the mercy of God Almighty and hoping that He would send them relief."

Prevailing Chaos

"It was with this idea that I left the army. I left the army, and I experienced the crisis in Iran. I sensed that chaos was prevalent in the country. There were disturbances and demonstrations every day. The revolutionary guard was ruling the country, and the army, the police and the gendarmes were under the command of the revolutionary guard. What matters is that chaos was prevalent in every agency, and the government's course was being determined by political parties. The most important of the Marxist parties now in Iran is the Iranian (Tudah) Party. This is the communist party that operates under the guise of Islam, but it is in fact playing communism and Islam against each other. Everybody knows this, but the government and the existing chaos present the best opportunity for carrying out Marxist actions and for putting Marxism into practice in Iran."

A Meeting in the Mosque

"I was aware of the conditions; I had experienced them; and I had experienced the truth. Nevertheless, like all young people, I was waiting for the mercy of God Almighty, [hoping] that He would bring us relief and set us free. Once, my brother, Salah--he is my oldest brother--suggested that I go with him to a mosque in Tehran, in Tehran's large market. The mosque is called the (Kafashan) Mosque. There I met a person by the name of Jarashayh al-Ibrahimi. It was Salah who introduced me to him, and our first meeting was to get acquainted. I saw that he was a kindhearted person and a person of faith. He spoke about religion and denominations, and he wanted to explain that taking up politics and religion and the ties between religion and politics could of course be carried to any lengths. I felt from the outset that he was a kindhearted person and that his conversation was splendid and pleasurable. Afterwards I met him repeatedly, and I got to know him better."

The Fida'iyan Islam Organization

"He came to our house twice, and I began to have confidence in him more than I had at first. He asked me once what I knew about the Fida'iyan Islam Organization which is headed by Hujjat al-Islam al-Shaykh Muhammad Salih Khalakhali. He asked me how much I knew about the shaykh himself and about the organization's ideology. I knew very little about [either], and he began to speak to me about the organization and its goals. One of the organization's goals was to export the Iranian Revolution outside the borders of Iran. Islamic, Arab countries would be the first targets, and after that the entire world.

"He began to speak about Hujjat al-Islam al-Shaykh Salih Khalakhali, and he led me to believe in fact--of course his words were like magic to me because I admired what he said--that al-Shaykh Muhammad Salih Khalakhali who was at that time the legitimate ruler of Kurdistan Province, had of course been appointed by Imam Khomeyni."

Psychologically Deviant Person

"He explained to me that al-Shaykh Muhammad Salih Khalakhali had been traveling once from the city of Sarandaj to the city of Mahabad. As soon as he got out of the helicopter, he was told that eight persons had been accused of conspiring against the Iranian Revolution and that they were Marxists. He asked for a Holy Koran from the group that was with him, and he opened the book and read a few verses. Half an hour later he proclaimed his decision that the eight persons be executed for conspiring against the Islamic Iranian Revolution. At first we felt that he was a psychologically deviant person and that he was deranged. But al-Shaykh Ibrahim justified the position of Hujjat al-Islam Muhammad Salih Khalakhali by arguing that he was protecting Islam and defending Islamic law. There were cases that called for violence, and violence should be used. He began to speak about the goals of the organization. This was the same as the method of assisting the organization and carrying out action."

The Goals of the Organization

"The organization has helpers or men who work for it in the Arab countries and throughout the world. The organization's goals are to assassinate the Shah, to assassinate well-known political figures and to save Islamic nations. Naturally, the first target would be in the Islamic, Arab countries, and [action] in the rest of the world would come later. After a while he told me, 'This is the organization's address. Come and see me there. I would like to see you.' The organization's address was a building on Nasir Khisru Street at the Shams Station. At the corner of the alley where the building which housed the organization was located there were guards and armored cars and things like that. He told me, 'When you get there, don't say that you want to see (al-Jabashidi Ibrahim) or any one. My name is al-Shaykh Ibrahim, and I am known by that name. If you are asked for your name when you come [into the office], tell them my name is Fallah. Don't say Fallah al-Din Kaji or anything.' I went to him, and I went into his office, and then he told me that the purpose of my coming to the office of the organization was that he wanted to explain to me that they were depending on me. It's as though he wanted to make me take the first step to join the organization. Then he began to talk about religion, denominations, politics, the Islamic world and the shape in which the world's ties with Iran were.

"He asked me to join the organization, and he asked me for copies of personal documents, a copy of [my] citizenship [papers] and a copy of [my] passport. I complied with his requests, and I gave him what he had asked for. He told me, 'There is a training period, and there are things that you must learn. All the members must learn them. He gave me the address of the camp, a training camp, and I went there. The camp was about 20 kilometers from the city of Tehran on Airport Road. It was adjacent to the (RioVac) Plant where batteries are manufactured. I went to the camp, and I saw there 14 persons like me who had been drafted. They wanted to receive training. During the training period that lasted approximately 3 weeks, I became acquainted with three persons. One of them was called Husayn Sulaymani and known as Muhammad Wali. Another person was Hurmuz Rakham'i, and he was known as Hurmuz. The third person was Mayun 'Ala'i Bahumayun. The teacher was called al-Skaykh Majid. The purpose of the training was to find out how hand grenades, which are called dynamite, were made and to learn how to make Molotov cocktails and incendiary materials. [Our] study was theoretical at first, and in the last week we put what we studied into practice. We manufactured bombs, and we used them. After the course ended, I saw [Ibrahim] several times in the mosque, and he told me, 'I will charge you with a mission, and this is a mission for God. The purpose of every person is to serve God Almighty and to serve humanity.' I told him all right. Then he told me, 'Come to my office.' I went to him, and he was explaining to us that the organization was an arm of the Islamic Iranian Government, that is, the Islamic Iranian Republic. [He said], I am al-Shaykh Muhammad Salih Khalakhalii.' He himself told me that.

"[He told me himself that] he goes twice a week to the holy city of Qom and that he has an audience with Imam Khomeyni. He reviews with him Iran's internal and foreign affairs, Iran's policy and all the developments. [He told me that] he was considered in Iran at present to be Imam Khomeyni's right-hand man. He explained to me the significance of the organization and the significance of the actions and the operations that we were undertaking. [He said] they required sufficient consciousness, sufficient knowledge and efficiency and that I met all the conditions."

215,000 Iranian Rials

"He had also led me to believe that I met all the conditions and that the reason behind the action that I would carry out was the the organization was tied to Imam Khomeyni. [The organization's work] served the purpose of God, of Iran and of the Islamic world. He took me with him to the bank on Sa'di Street, and he gave me about 215,000 Iranian rials. He told me to convert this sum into foreign currency. Then, of course, when I went to the bank he told [them] to give me two checks and currency and he told me, 'Keep the money with you, and I will tell you later what to do with it.' After some time he told me one day, 'Come to the mosque after the evening prayer. I have some things that I want to speak to you about.'

"This was exactly 2 weeks before my trip, but until now there had been no determination of a target, an operation, or a mission. When I went to him at the mosque, I saw him surrounded by five persons, and he introduced me [to them]. Naturally he told the group, 'The person you see in front of you is Fallah al-Din Kaji.' He introduced the [five] persons as Mansur (Aysiyl), Karim Taymuri, Husayn Rustum, Bihran Ghatayari and Muhammad Rida al-Lahashani. I understood and deduced that the names of the five persons were their real names and not their aliases or false names because he had said my real name and he had introduced me with my real name. Then he began to speak. At first, his words were measured. His words were well arranged and purposeful. At first he began to speak about internal policy, and then they moved on to speak about Arab policy and the link between current events in Iran and, first, the Arab world and then with the entire world."

Egypt Is the Target

"Then he began to speak about Egypt. He told me that the target and the mission, the group's mission, was Egypt in particular. He told me that Cairo would become the victorious one. He began to speak about the politics that President al-Sadat was pursuing, the Egyptian people, the Palestinian question and about the importance of impeding the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. He also led us to believe of course that the actions and the operations that we would carry out would be to serve God and to serve the Egyptian people. We would serve the Egyptian people! He began to speak about the fact that the objectives were important,

and that they were in fact very important and serious objectives. The first outcome of the objectives was that we would establish chaos and thwart the peace initiative between Egypt and Israel. The ultimate objective was to export the Iranian Revolution outside Iran. These were all beautiful words, very much like magic."

I Speak Arabic

"Then he went on to speak about how the action and the operations will be carried out. He said that we would live in a building, and he, of course set my arrival date to be the 21st because I spoke Arabic. I was the only one of the group who spoke Arabic. I was to be the first one to arrive. Afterwards he explained to us as he had done at first that the objectives were serious ones and that the operations must be carried out with special speed, with special accuracy and with skill. He had explained to us, 'The Egyptian police do not know and will not know that you carried out the operations. The Egyptian people will conclude that domestic organizations working in Egypt had carried out the operations. No one will suspect that organizations brought in from outside were carrying out these operations.' He also led us to believe that in case Egyptian authorities were to put up a screen or cover up the events or the operations that we will carry out, the organization will take it upon itself to claim responsibility for the operations in Egypt."

Demolition Date: 10 January

"During the second meeting prior to [my] departure, he set the dates: the 21st [of December] and the 10th of January. The 21st was the date of my arrival, and the 10th of January was the date of the group's return to Athens and from there to Tehran. When we asked him exactly why the date had been set for the 10th of January, since it was known that the date of the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel would be on February 25, he explained to us exactly why the date was 10 January. He said, 'We do know and we have considered January 10. We have enough information and enough reconnaissance to know that this is the first and the final date for the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. Embassies will be opened in both countries, and the question will be over after that.' Then he told me, 'I want to see you alone' because I was to be the first one to leave. Of course he had told me that there was an Iranian here in Cairo. 'He will show you the chemical warehouses where you will purchase the chemical materials. He will show you the targets, and he will guide you to anything you want. He will explain to you all the condition here.' Naturally he had already determined how this Iranian would introduce himself to us. He was supposed to come to me--the first one of the group. He was to come to us and he was to show me his Iranian passport. On the page where the passport picture should have been, there would be no writing or anything. He would show me the passport and tell me the code word. Then [Ibrahim] told me, 'I want to see you alone. Come to the office.' I went to his office and he began to speak about a visa and about how I was going to enter Egypt. He told me, 'You will go to Athens.' They gave me an airplane ticket of course. It was a round trip ticket from Tehran to Athens."

Visa From Egyptian Embassy in Athens

"He told me, 'You will contact me by telegram as soon as you arrive in Athens, and you will tell me that you have arrived.' He asked me if I was corresponding with anyone in Egypt and I told him that I had been corresponding with an Egyptian woman in one of the cities for 5 years. He told me, 'All right, take the letters with you. They will be useful to you.' I asked him how, and he said, 'You will go to the Egyptian Embassy in Athens, Greece, and you will tell them that you want a visa so you could marry this Egyptian woman. You will have a justification and a reason. Take your bachelor's degree with you so you can buy the chemicals there. You can enter the airport with it.' Then he said, 'There is no alternate solution.' He said, 'The last alternate solution, that is, the alternate solution and the last solution in case you do not get a visa in this.' Then he gave me a bullet, and he told me, 'This is the other solution, the alternate solution, it will take you to Cairo Airport where you will land. You will give the bullet to the Egyptian authorities and to the Egyptian police, and you will tell them that you had seen the bullet on the airplane. They will give you a visa right away.' He also told me that Egyptian policemen were unprofessional and that they did not have enough experts and experience. 'They will give you a visa right away [because you will seem to them to be] a simple person. And you will also show them the letters and the messages.' Then he also began talking about the operations and their gravity and [he said] that we would set several fires simultaneously. That is there would be six huge fires in Cairo on the same day and on the same date. He had also explained to me that our present target was Cairo and that the subsequent targets would be the large cities of Alexandria and Aswan and the remaining large cities in Egypt. There would also be fires and explosions that would be quite terrifying and that they would have an impact throughout Egypt. [He told me] that the gravity of the operations was such and such and such. He said, 'I will see you at the airport on December 18. As far as money was concerned I had the two checks, and he told me, 'You will cash the two checks at the first opportunity you have to do so after you arrive in Cairo, and you will spend the money to buy the chemicals for making the bombs and for your expenses. That is, if you want to buy anything, go ahead and buy it. When you return to Tehran, God willing, you will be rewarded.' We were not supposed to ask him about the reward, but when I asked him if the reward would be a material one or a spiritual one, he told me, 'We will cherish you and honor you, God willing. The first goal is to serve God, but we will also have a special reward for you.'"

"On December 18 he was in fact with me at the airport. The revolutionary guard was searching the airport, and we came out without having undergone any search. He gave me the address of the apartment or the building where I was supposed to meet the group in Cairo. [He said that] it was possible that one or two [members] of the group would come to Egypt by boat.

[He also gave me] the address of the port of Alexandria, in the city of Alexandria. He explained to me that I would carry out the actions successfully and that he had confidence in me. He gave me his blessings, and he wished me success. I arrived in the city of Athens on December 18, and I contacted him and then went to the Egyptian Embassy. I told them I wanted a visa, and I showed them the letters, but they told me they would contact officials in Cairo and there would be a long period. [They said], 'We will contact them by telex, but you will wait for 2 weeks, and I told them that I could not be patient. Anyway, I realized that it would be no use, and so I did in fact arrive in Cairo on the specified date, on December 21. As soon as I arrived at the airport, Cairo Airport, I gave the bullet to security officials at the airport, and I told them that I had seen it in the pocket [of the seat] that was in front of the passenger. They told me, 'All right, we will search the luggage, and you are a guest in our country, we will overlook the fact that you do not have a visa, and we will admit you, God willing. They began to search the luggage, and they found a plan written in Persian. Actually, I had forgotten about it, and I was not supposed to bring it with me. It was a mistake, and one can say that God Almighty made me make this mistake and keep the plan with me without my being aware of it. They saw the plan and turned me over to state security investigation, and the state security investigation discovered, after having the plan translated, that the plan was a destructive one. They confronted me with this fact and with the fact that the target of the plan was every ordinary person. [They told me] that if anyone had such a plan, he would be considered a criminal, and they explained to me that the plan was a destructive one and that [it contained] chemical equations. This was true, and I told them from the beginning that they were chemical equations, that I had studied chemistry and that I had a bachelor's degree in chemistry. I also showed them the letters I had with me, and I told them that I wanted to get married. At first they were persuaded, but after they discovered the plan and sensed that it was a destructive one, they explained by situation to me. Naturally, I did not expect them to be that experienced. I saw a very effective agency. They were open with me from the beginning, and then they began to speak about the policy of the government and the people of Egypt. They spoke about Egypt's position on the Iranian Revolution and about the fact that President al-Sadat had been among the first persons who proclaimed they were delighted with the Islamic Iranian Revolution because its primary purpose was to serve Islam and humanity. They said that it was the Egyptian people who had sacrificed for the Palestinian question and that it was the Egyptian people who had been at the forefront. They spoke about Arab nationalism and about all forms of ties between it and the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian people. They explained to me all the positions, and they indicated that the plan, as they had told me at first, was a destructive plan and that innocent people who have nothing to do with politics would have been its victims. That is, the

people who had made the country prosper. I wanted to punch them on their heads. They told me about things and incidents, and they said that the current struggle between Iran and Egypt was one-sided since Iran had initiated the struggle. There was no such thing as a struggle, that is, for the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian people. I actually regarded them as kindhearted people, and I sensed the truth. I experienced Egyptian kindhearted and generosity, and I acquired a sense of the policy that al-Sadat was adopting to serve the Palestinian question. After they explained the questions to me, I confessed that the plan was in fact a destructive plan and that its purpose was to establish chaos and to thwart the cause of peace. I told [the investigating officer] about the persons who had been charged with me to carry out the plot and the operations. At present I regret what has happened. I actually regret it, and I thank God Almighty that He guided me on the the correct path and that I confessed the plots and the evil objectives because they have nothing to do with Islam and no relations with the true religion. My first prayer to God Almighty is that I am waiting for Him to forgive my sins for thinking wrong thoughts and deceptive, misleading thoughts. Then I ask for the forgiveness of the Egyptian authorities because they are looking upon me with pity and with mercy, and they do appreciate the positions I was in. Many thanks.

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EGYPT

MINISTER OF INTERIOR COMMENTS ON TERRORIST'S STATEMENT

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Jan 80 p 3

[Article: "After Terrorist's Statement, Minister of Interior Says, 'Iran Is Trying To Export Revolution to Arab Countries; Strict Security Measures To Anticipate Sabotage'"]

[Text] Minister of Interior Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il has revealed the intentions of the Iranian terrorist against the people of Egypt. He said, "The purpose behind planning for this operation is to create chaos and to export the Iranian Revolution to the Arab and the Islamic countries." He said, "Security agencies have information that confirms this course."

The minister of interior said, "The whole world knows; those who direct young Iranian people know; and the Arab countries and the Palestinian people know that Egypt has suffered a great deal for the Palestinian question and for Palestine. If the Palestinian question has thrust itself [upon the scene] and if significant accomplishments have been realized, thanks are primarily due to Egypt and to the efforts of President al-Sadat."

The minister of interior said, "We do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country, and we do not export revolutions. Egypt is interested in building, in peace, in security and in safety. Its efforts are turned to the questions of the whole world. Our position vis-a-vis the Iranian Revolution has been a proper one from the beginning, and even our relations with the Shah have been objective. But we did see the Iranian Revolution adopt a hostile posture towards Egypt and also towards the question of peace from the first day. Today, we see that the people of Egypt have proclaimed their will clearly. They welcome peace that is based on justice. In a matter of days we will take back about 80 percent of the Sinai, but we have not abandoned our Arab and our pan-Arab commitments."

Al-Nabawi Isma'il said, "When American hostages were taken, Egypt and the whole world protested this position on the premise of our concern for the Iranian Revolution and for the Iranian people. We did not want the Iranian people to become involved in this blunder, and we did not want Iran to turn into a nation [ruled by] a band of terrorists who detain innocent people and negotiate for their release. This hurts Islam and hurts the Islamic Revolution."

The minister of interior reviewed the circumstances of the arrest of the Iranian terrorist. He said, "Security measures are being taken at the borders, in the airports, in the sea ports and in all the areas where infiltration may be possible."

The minister said, "Security agencies in Egypt are respected by the whole world. We realize that the plots against Egypt go in two directions:

"Material sabotage to create unrest that would lead the Egyptian people to believe that the disturbances were being generated inside the country. This would make the world feel that the disturbances which were taking place had [their origins] inside Egypt. This trend manifests itself in operations to set up explosions or fires or to assassinate people.

"Plans [to undermine] morale in the form of rumors and doubts to dishonor the national leadership, to disparage the regime and to cast doubts on every decision that is made in Egypt."

The minister said, "The masses of our people in the various locations, services and facilities must be vigilant in case they see or suspect any action. They can notify security agencies about this. We must turn all our efforts towards production and towards the obviation of rumors."

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CSO: 4802

ESPIONAGE TRIAL POSTPONED FOR ILLNESS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jan 80 p 10

[Article: "Court Case of Syrian Intelligence Agent Postponed Because of Agent's Sickness"]

[Text] The State Security Supreme Court decided yesterday to postpone consideration of the case of the Syrian intelligence agent, because of his illness, till the session of next April 8.

The court had convened with Judge Hakim Munir Salib presiding and Judges 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hakim and Ahmad Muhammad Bakkar participating. 'Isam Ibrahim al-Qalyubi, the prosecutor of Qasr al-Nil [precinct]; Ramadan Nassar and Ahmad Ramadan, court clerks, attended the court session.

At the beginning of the session the prosecutor's representative asked that the case be postponed due to the illness of the defendant, Salim Joseph, the Syrian intelligence agent. He had been assigned by Syrian intelligence the task of coming to the country, but he was apprehended at Cairo Airport. There was a complete plan for sabotage operations and political assassinations in his possession. He had a shipment of explosives that were to be detonated in government installations and buildings, in public buildings, and in places frequented by the public in Cairo.

The prosecutor's representative submitted to the court a letter from the assistant to the minister of internal affairs for the General Directorate of State Security Investigation affairs. The letter was addressed to the public prosecutor for the State Security Supreme Court. It stated that the administration of the Respiratory [Diseases] Hospital had indicated that the defendant's condition would not allow that he be brought to trial now or that he be moved outside the hospital because he was undergoing therapy for a chronic ailment. The medical report that was issued by the hospital was attached. Afterwards, the court made its aforementioned decision.

EGYPT

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS EVALUATED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIAH in Arabic 4 Jan 80 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Khalifah: "Religious Programs on Radio and Television in Balance; 80 Percent of Young People Keep Up With Them Closely; 82.9 Percent of Listeners Fond of Holy Koran Radio"]

[Text] In a field survey of radio and television religious programs conducted by the Association of Radio and Television on a sample of the audience in Cairo and in some of the governorates, the Holy Koran Radio rose to second place after the Public Program.

It also became evident from this field study that 80 percent of the young people keep up with these programs and that 50 percent of the males listen to them, compared with 48 percent of the females.

The most popular man of the cloth among the audience was al-Shaykh Muhammad Mutwalli al-Sha'rawi. Al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-Basit 'Abd-al-Samad was the best old Koran reader, and Muhammad al-Tabalawi was the best of the new readers. The most popular of the radio announcers was Dr Kamil al-Buhi, and the most popular television announcer was Ahmad Farraj.

The best actor in religious programs and serials was Ahmad Mazhar, and the best actress was Aminah Rizzq. The best male singer of religious songs was Muhammad al-Kahlawi, and the best female singer of this kind of songs was Umm Kulthum. She was followed by Su'ad Muhammad.

The Association of Radio and Television had conducted this field study to find out to what extent the audience did keep up with religious programs whose broadcast hours in 1978 had increased to 10,261 broadcast hours: radio broadcast 9,666 hours of religious programs, and television broadcast 595 hours.

The study sought to find out the most suitable times when listeners tuned in [to programs] so as to take advantage of them. It sought to find out what the popular programs were; who were the best program announcers; and who were the best speakers, the best Koran readers, and

the best male and female singers of religious songs. It sought to find out what the audience thought about broadcasting the Friday prayer rites from the mosques and broadcasting the rites of the pilgrimage from the Holy Land via satellite.

The Holy Koran's Leap

After being in fifth place the Holy Koran Radio leaped to second place following the Public Program. It was followed by Sawt al-'Arab [the Voice of the Arabs] Radio, by al-Sharq al-Awsat [Middle East] Radio and by al-Shabab [Youth] Radio. The number of religious programs amounted to 75. It became evident that age had no effect on the audience ratio and that old people and young people were enthusiastic about the programs. It became patently clear that education increased the audience's enthusiasm for listening to and watching the religious programs.

The Best of Programs

Ninety-two percent said that the best religious program was Nur 'Ala Nur [Enlightenment Upon Enlightenment] which is noted by the capable broadcaster Ahmad Farraj. It was followed by Umsiyyah Diniyyah [A Religious Evening] which is hosted by Fu'ad Shakir; by Min Huda al-Nubuwah [From the Guidance of Prophecy] which is hosted by Faruq Amin; by Islamiyyat [Islamism] which has been suspended; and by Huda Allah [The Religion of God].

The Morning Talk Is Better on Radio

Fifty-two percent of the audience said that they keep up with Hadith al-Sabah [The Morning Talk Program]. In the evening they listen regularly to Ra'y al-Din [Religious Opinion] and then to al-Hadith al-Dini [Religious Talk]. The best religious programs on radio were ranked by the audience as follows:

Ra'y al-Din [Religious Opinion]; Hadith al-Sabah [Morning Talk]; al-Hadith al-Dini [Religious Talk]; and Min Buyut Allah [From the Houses of Worship]. The audience attributed the popularity of these programs to the fact that they were presented in an up-to-date fashion; they contained responses and questions; they featured senior religious scholars; and they benefited them in their lives.

The Best Announcers

The best radio announcers and hosts of religious programs were ranked as follows: Kamil al-Buhi, Sayyid 'Ali al-Sayyid, 'Izzat Harak, 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Wahab and Faruq Shushah [host of] Tariq al-Nur [The Road of Enlightenment] Program.

The best television broadcasters and religious program hosts were Ahmad Farraj, Fu'ad Shakir, Kariman Hamzah, Marzuq Hilal and Dr Mustafa Mahmud.

The Most Popular Speakers

Among those who speak on the Prophetic Tradition al-Shaykh Muhammad Mutwalli al-Sha'rawi was favored by 56 percent of the audience. A man of the cloth who is deceased was favored by 12 percent, and the third speaker--with a sharp drop--was favored by 4 percent. The audience's reason for the choice was ease of presentation, adequate explanation and interpretation, the manner of speaking and personal charisma.

'Abd-al-Basit and al-Tabalawi

The audience selected al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-Basit 'Abd-al-Samad to be the best reader of the Koran from the old generation. The first among the new readers on radio was al-Shaykh Muhammad al-Tabalawi (79 percent).

Programs Interrupted To Broadcast Call To Prayer

Ninety-five percent of the audience said that they approved of interrupting radio programs to broadcast the call to prayer. They said they disliked acclamation while the Koran was being recited. Seventy-eight percent of the audience--mostly females--requested religious songs. Six percent of the audience said that religious singing was sinful, and 5 percent did not know whether it was righteous or sinful. Ninety-three percent liked religious supplications, and most of those were in the remote regions. Nasr al-Din Tubar was [considered] the best chanter of religious supplications.

In the Vernacular

Sixty-three percent of the audience said they preferred religious programs to be in the vernacular; 24 percent wanted them in classical Arabic; and 11 percent wanted them in a language that combines the classical with the vernacular, that is, the language of radio.

Sixty-eight percent of the audience praised the religious television serials, "'Ala Hamish al-Sirah" [Notes on the Prophet's Life].

This was followed by "'Ala [Near] Bab Zuwaylah" and then by "Sidi [The Honorable] Ibrahim al-Dusuqi." On radio the serialized program, "Moslems and Islam in 1400 Years" was ranked [most popular program], and it was followed by the best of stories, "'al-Ramadani" [Stories of Ramadan].

82.9 Percent for Koran Radio

The study set aside a special section for Koran Radio. Its audience exceeded 82.9 percent. Eighty percent of those were young people, and more people listened to these broadcasts in North Egypt. Most of the audience listened to the chanting and also to the recitation of the Koran. They listened to [programs on] the Prophetic Tradition and then to [programs on] formal legal opinions. The most important programs were "Barid al-Islam" [Islamic Mail]; "al-Hadith al-Dini" [Religious Talk]; "Ya Ummat al-Koran [Nation of the Koran]; "Min Buyut Allah" [From the Houses of Worship]; and "Shu'a' Min Nur" [A Ray of Light].

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EGYPT

PROSPECTS FOR NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRY

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jan 80 p 3

[Article by Ni-mat 'Isawi: "How To Turn Natural Gas Fields Into a Life Saving Device That Would Take Egypt Out of Bottleneck Called Energy Crisis? Deliverance: Nile Delta Floating Over Pool of Natural Gas; Difficult Task To Meet Expected Shortage in Electrical Power Facing Energy Experts; (1) New al-Qantarah Field Is Providing 5,000 Barrels of Oil and 160 Tons of Butane Every Day; (2) Abu al-Gharadiq Field Is Now Supplying Gas to Iron and Steel Plant in Hulwan, to Almazah Airport and Soon to Nasr City and Heliopolis; (3) Abu Madi Field Supplies Gas to Fertilizer Plant in Talkha; (4) Abu Qir Field Saves 5 Million Pounds and Operates 15 Plants; Natural Gas Reserves: 4 Billion Cubic Feet; Required: 12,000 Billion"]

[Text] At the big meeting that was attended by the ministers of petroleum, planning, finance, irrigation, transportation, communications and industry, the Supreme Council for Energy discussed the national energy program to meet the expected shortage in electrical power due to the arrival of winter 48 hours before it was due.

At the same time officials in the petroleum sector announced that the new al-Qantarah field on the eastern bank of the canal would initially meet the electrical power needs of plants and projects in Ismailia and Port Said besides those of a new plant for the production of butane gas in al-Qantarah West.

The experts said that the daily production of the new field was estimated to be about 160 tons of butane gas besides about 5,000 barrels of oil that are turned over to the refineries.

In the aftermath of the intense meetings of energy officials and in the aftermath of the arduous efforts that are being made by the experts everywhere in Egypt to provide energy, the questions that are being raised now are:

How do the experts determine with figures and facts only the future of all of Egypt in the context of the world energy crisis and in the context of what the arrival of winter brings about?

Can the four natural gas fields meet Egypt's needs for gas at the present time, after preliminary steps have actually been taken to lay natural gas lines to homes, factories and companies in Nasr City, in Heliopolis and in Hulwan?

Can the four fields save Egypt over 100 million pounds sterling which it pays every year to subsidize butane gas so that the consumer would not pay more than 65 piasters for a tank of butane for which the government pays 450 piasters?

Experts are saying, "In the next few years, now that use of butane gas has become very costly because of the steep rise in its prices, we must look for a natural alternative to the gas we are importing from abroad, and we must turn to the natural gas that is available from our wells."

The difficult mission that is being undertaken by energy experts in Egypt is this: to what extent will Abu al-Gharadiq, Abu Qir, Abu Madi and the new al-Qantarah field contribute towards meeting our natural gas needs?

A plan to universalize use of this gas has actually begun. The objective is to lay the first supply lines from these wells to the areas of Nasr City, Heliopolis and Hulwan.

And here Dr Mustafa al-'Ayyuti, vice president of the Petroleum Authority says, "Research has proven that the Nile Delta is rich in pools of natural gas that have not yet been utilized. But we are now working to utilize the fields of Abu Madi, Abu Qir, Abu al-Gharadiq and also the new al-Qantarah Field."

"But what is natural gas, and how is a gas field formed inside the earth?"

Dr al-'Ayyuti says, "There are two kinds of natural gas: the gas that comes with oil and the gas that comes without oil. This means that a field may contain a percentage of natural gas in addition to a percentage of crude oil. The type of field is determined according to this ratio. If the ratio of oil exceeds that of gas, the field is an oil field, and the reverse is true. There may be fields that contain very high ratios of natural gas."

"There are underground geological factors that determine the type of a field: whether it is a gas field or an oil field. It is known that oil fields are formed as a result of the chemical reactions of the remains of living organisms that were buried and decomposed. With the passage of time these produced hydrocarbons. [Another material--illegible] is produced with the passage of time by the decomposition of the remains of plant organisms. This produces a field whose gas ratio is higher

than that of oil. The decomposition of animal organisms produces an oil field. Naturally there are other factors such as the conditions of a well, its depth and its temperature, that determine the type of a field."

"But how can we benefit from this enormous natural gas resource?"

Engineer 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu Bakr, president of PetroGas Corporation which oversees the natural gas fields in Abu Qir says, "Natural gas has numerous uses. First, it can be used as a primary material in numerous industries such as the iron and steel industry, and sponge iron industry and the fertilizer and cement industries.

"The North Abu Qir gas field has actually contributed to the production of the fertilizer, urea. Fifty thousand tons of fertilizers worth 5 million pounds have already been delivered to the Ministry of Agriculture. The variety is considered to be one of the best fertilizers for Egyptian soil. It is also used as fuel in the power stations of factories after it is transported from the wells to the usage areas in pipes that meet special specifications with regard to heat and pressure.

"We have actually begun to supply a group of factories with natural gas--about 15--for use as a primary material and as fuel.

"Besides all this, natural gas has an important use in homes as an alternative to butane gas and [as fuel] for heating purposes, especially since the state is suffering considerably from the problem of importing butane gas and from the burden of its exorbitant cost which continues to increase. We can imagine [the extent of] this problem and this burden if we learn that the price of a ton of butane gas in 1959 was \$200 and that in 1979 it amounted to \$480. A single tank of butane gas costs approximately 5 pounds and is sold to the consumer for 65 piasters. The government assumes the responsibility of an annual subsidy that amounts to approximately 104 million pounds a year. This subsidy is, of course, continuously increasing as a result of a 20 percent increase [per year] in the rate of our consumption of butane. This is besides the rise in world prices.

"In addition, we are now suffering from the problem of the gradual disappearance of the workers who distribute butane gas tanks to homes, and this constitutes an obstacle to the delivery of butane tanks to consumers' homes."

Engineer 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu Bakr adds, "Natural gas is called the civilized gas in the world. It does not pollute the air because it does not contain a high rate of sulphur as does butane gas. Besides, it reduces the wear and tear on the machines and equipment which use it. Also, natural gas is naturally light; it rises to the top where vents can be opened for it. This eliminates any danger of its use in homes as an alternative to butane gas or [as fuel] for heating purposes.

"In addition to this, there is a principal difficulty regarding the importation of butane gas. All the advanced countries are now using oil and natural gas to manufacture petrochemicals. This means that there may come a time when we will not be able to import butane gas. This would constitute a serious difficulty, especially since we are importing 70 percent of our total needs, and this is not a small ratio."

"What is the alternative solution here?"

"The only solution to the problem lies in making use of the enormous natural gas resources in Egypt to produce butane gas."

"We have actually begun to lay a 160-kilometer pipeline from Abu al-Gharadiq Field to Dahshur. A branch of that pipeline [will provide gas] to operate the iron and steel plants in Hulwan.

"We have also laid a pipeline to Almazah Airport, to Nasr City and to Heliopolis in preparation for laying a system of pipelines to supply natural gas to homes."

"But how does the entire outlook for the production of butane gas from natural gas in Egypt look like?"

Engineer Tawfiq Shawqi, chairman of the board of directors of the Bala'im Oil Corporation says:

"With modern technological progress and with the rise in the price of oil, the utilization of natural gas in different oil industries, such as its utilization as fuel in electrical power stations, in different petrochemical industries and also in the production of butane gas, has become necessary."

1. Regarding the Abu Madi Field: "There is in fact a project to build a fertilizer plant in Talkha, in addition to a new power plant that has actually begun to use gas. The production capacity of this project amounts to about 3 million cubic feet per day."

2. "There is another project of the new al-Qantarah Field for producing liquid petroleum gases. This field has a high ratio of natural gas and gasoline. A project to develop this field is underway for the purpose of extracting gas for the consumption of the manufacturing plants and power projects in Ismailia and Port Said and also for a butane gas bottling plant in al-Qantarah West. The production capacity of this field is estimated to be about 5,000 barrels of gasoline a day, that are turned over to the refineries, and from 150 to 160 tons of butane gas per day. It is expected that gas will reach Port Said and Ismailia by the end of 1980 and that butane gas will be produced by the end of 1981. Total costs for the development projects of the new al-Qantarah Field are estimated to be about 50 million dollars."

"What about the natural gas liquefaction industry?"

Engineer Tawfiq Shawqi says, "Briefly, the gas liquefaction industry consists of converting gas to liquid to facilitate transporting it to remote areas in case it is exported. The gas is put under pressure and then cooled. It then turns to liquid, and it is stored in sub-zero temperature until it reaches the consumer. But because of our present need for energy; because of our use of natural gas to replace part of the petroleum products [we use]; and to meet the needs of the electrical power stations in addition to the continuous rise in oil prices; and [also] because of the lack of a large reserve of gas to meet the needs of the country for 20 years, we are not inclined to export natural gas at the present time. This is because the reserve quantity does not exceed 4,000 billion cubic feet. Gas reserves are supposed to amount to 12,000 billion cubic feet so as to meet the needs of the local market for 20 years. This makes it impossible to export the gas. Naturally, if we do attain this minimum reserve level which is required, we may be able to export gas."

"We have, therefore, focused in the new gas prospecting agreements on the need to meet the minimum reserve [quantity] before gas can be exported. This requires increasing the [number of] search and prospecting operations.

"Regarding preserving the minimum oil reserves, there are existing international agreements that would be difficult to alter, especially since our balance of payments does depend largely on the returns from exporting oil. Naturally, there are operations to increase search and prospecting [activities] for oil and to decrease the daily production of existing wells so as to maintain their total reserves. In addition, there are other projects to increase the proceeds of existing fields so as to take advantage of all their capabilities and to increase their rates of production."

"Where does Egypt stand now on the petrochemicals industry?"

Engineer Tawfiq Shawqi says, "The big step in utilizing natural gas is concentrated in the petrochemicals industry. It is the best use [for natural gas], and we are in dire need for it now. The appropriate incentive must be provided by the state to this vital industry which needs huge financial resources. Its tremendous profits, however, soon make up for these large expenses which are necessary for its establishment."

"But how can the exorbitant costs of petrochemical projects be made up?"

'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, vice president of the Petrochemical Authority says, "The petrochemicals industry [in Egypt] would be an integrated industry that would be developed in stages. [It includes] several industries that would be implemented in successive stages until we ultimately come to the product which realizes the biggest profit. The first stages of this industry may not realize this profit, but they are essential stages so that

the final product can be achieved. Gas goes through several successive stages, for example, so that it can be converted to ethylene and then to polyethylene which gives us plastic, the final product that can be used in numerous industries. These industries realize large profits. The conversion of gas to ethylene may not be profitable, but it is, of course, [one of the] integrated stages in achieving the final product which is used in very profitable industries.

"Hence it becomes evident that the petrochemical industry is an integrated and a concatenated industry [all part of which] must be established within one sector. All parts of the petrochemical industry must be subject to the oil sector so that the profits of the final products can be advantageously utilized for the different stages of the industry. We are not unaware of the fact that the petrochemicals industry requires a huge capital for its establishment, but we cannot overlook the fact that it is a source of prosperity and wealth for nations and that the time has come for us to take a serious look at this industry.

"In 1962 there was a project for petrochemical industries in Egypt. The required capital for it was 55 million dollars, and the project was not implemented.

"A proposal submitted by a foreign company [to set up a petrochemicals industry in Egypt] for 1.3 billion dollars is being considered. This is an increase of 1.045 billion dollars.

"At any rate Egypt will one day undoubtedly enter the age of petrochemicals. But when? This is another matter."

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EGYPT

BRIEFS

SENIOR ARMY OFFICER PROMOTED--A decision has been issued to appoint General Staff Maj Gen Kamal Abu al-'Azayim assistant to the chief of general staff for the armed forces. Maj Gen Kamal Abu al-'Azayim has a bachelor's degree in science (chemistry and geology). He graduated with honors in 1951. He worked in the military factories till 1953, and then joined the Military College with the first university class that enrolled in the college. He graduated from the Military College in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a major in plastics and missiles. He was the first of [his] class in the Military Technical College. He earned graduate degrees in the chemistry of explosives and in manufacturing ammunition from Derby in the United Kingdom, and he also earned a graduate degree in manufacturing iron and steel from Dortmund in West Germany. His research in organic chemistry has been published in some U.S. scientific magazines. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jan 80 p 1] 8592

CSO: 4802

TUDEH PARTY CHIEF KIANURI: WE SUPPORT SHI'ITES

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 7 Feb 80 p 20

[Article by Timo Vuorela in Tehran]

[Text] Iran's Islamic revolution has blurred many well-established political concepts and has apparently broken down barriers that were considered immutable. Even before the overthrow of the shah, an unusual combination could be observed on the streets of Tehran--the alliance of the Left with religious believers. Marxist Moslems shook the foundations of the economic system of the Western world with their revolutionary cry: "Death to the shah and to satanic America!"

How real and durable can a united front of Marxists and devout Moslems be? It is evident in Iran that the Marxists are the bridegroom in this marriage and the dubious bride is represented by sundry varieties of religious groups. To an orthodox Moslem, communism is a threat to mankind. Godless ideology shall yet be destroyed from the face of the earth. How long can the cooperation last when the joint revolution is over.

Close to Socialism

"Islam, especially the Shi'ites, appeals to the masses and is a social doctrine close to scientific socialism," says Nureddin Kianuri, General Secretary of the communist Tudeh Party of Iran. "We believe that the supporters of scientific socialism have much in common with the Islamic revolution led by Imam Ruhollah Khomeyni, because both ideologies demand independence and stand for justice and equality for the downtrodden."

"It is our understanding that men in the West are accustomed to churches and religions which have become institutionalized. We, on the other hand, are involved in a struggle between imperialist and anti-imperialist forces. We believe that the scales will tip more and more in favor of socialism, but still we must reevaluate our stand on religion--not only Islam but all the religions of the world," Kianuri predicts.

"For instance, new things are happening in Catholicism in Europe and Latin America. There are two totally different churches: one on the side of

imperialism, one on the side of the people."

Just how likely is it that cooperation will continue after the revolution? Kianuri launches into a lecture on the subject: "We do not believe that the revolutionary phase will be over soon. The struggle against imperialism will last a long time. The unprecedented cold war which imperialism, especially American imperialism, has initiated in connection with the events in Iran and Afghanistan extends to our revolution. That is why we believe that the struggle before us will not be brief but extended, and that we will be joined by the downtrodden nations.

"During the 1970's, imperialism was defeated in more than ten countries: Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, South Yemen, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia. . . We believe that the number of such nations will be much greater in the 1980's. Therefore, our cooperation with the revolutionary Moslems is not limited to a brief period of time but will continue for a long time, and we intend to maintain this cooperation. I don't think that political observers have paid enough attention to this problem. It is a new phenomenon and merits much more attention in the future."

Kianuri leads a party which was established during World War II. Until the early 1950's, during the government of Mohammad Mosaddeq the communists operated in the open, but were forced underground when the shah came to power and overthrew Mosaddeq.

"It must not be forgotten that we began our activity after 30 years of fascist government. Our economic and technical resources are greatly limited. Therefore, we have not yet achieved our natural status," the General Secretary says of his party's insignificant showing in the presidential election two weeks ago. The Tudeh candidate received four percent of the votes. For the most part, the statements of Iran's religious leaders express strong anticommunist viewpoints. For the time being, Imam Khomeini has been favorable to cooperation with the communists, but he may be taking a firmer stand. Earlier this week, he spoke out clearly against the occupation of Afghanistan.

Just as clearly and logically, it is easy to find opponents of communism and socialism among religious revolutionaries. Azizolah Zaafarian, head of a religious publication called AL-GHADIR and of a religious publishing firm by the same name, is not hesitant to speak his mind: "We can only say that we are completely and absolutely opposed to communism. Communism and Islam are diametrically opposed, because communists do not believe in God. As for socialist or capitalist economic systems, we can only say that we believe only in Islam. The different "isms" come from men; Islam and Christianity come from God."

Zaafarian feels it is quite natural to oppose imperialism, particularly American imperialism, because the United States is always plotting something and won't leave the Iranians alone. "The United States has been in this country more than the Soviet Union. That's why more anti-American

rumors are heard around here. The United States made money here. Now they have been kicked out along with the shah, and now the money that the Americans were collecting is staying here."

Aid For The Rebels

According to the rumors going around Tehran, AL-GHADIR has direct connections with the Moslem rebels in Afghanistan, but Zaafarian absolutely denies it. "This society's only purpose is to disseminate Islamic culture. We don't do anything like that ourselves, but we are confident that the Moslem nations of the world will send aid to those nations under attack by the superpowers."

Kianuri said the same thing in these words: "Aid is going from Iran to the rebels in Afghanistan, but we don't know how much. We do know that certain conservative groups are arranging for assistance and are training Afghani-stani rebels in this country, but the amount of this help is much less than that going through Pakistan or the aid given by China.

"Our printed materials are distributed free. We don't know if some are going to Afghanistan. The communist government there does not permit people to study, just as Moslems in the Soviet Union are not free like Moslems in Islamic countries," says Zaafarian earnestly.

Kings Must Be Done Away With

"We want to help our Moslem brothers in Afghanistan, but we won't help the Babrak Karmal government which is being supported by the Soviet Union. We do not believe that Karmal is a Moslem, though he claims to be. Even the shah said, "Of course I'm Moslem," and then killed more than 100,000 people."

What was the source of such power? "In addition to the communists and the socialists, kings are on the list of those to be done away with from the face of the earth." Zaafarian describes the Saudi Arabian royal family as an example of anti-Islamic government. "Saudi Arabia does not have an Islamic government, though they claim to be. Islam does not permit royalty. Saudi Arabia is led by one family with capitalistic interests. Our publications cannot be mailed into that country; passengers going there can't take them across the border even to read as they travel."

The orthodox priorities become clear during the course of the conversation: first, communism is to be destroyed, then royalty. The objectives are clearly outlined and the enemy is identified. The communists have a tough fight ahead of them. The overwhelming advantage of their opponents is shown by the fact that in almost every Arab country, the communists are still underground or their open activity is forbidden.



Tudeh Party Leader Kianuri

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CSO: 3107

REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL PASSES SERIES OF NEW LAWS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jan 80 p 6

[Article: "Promulgation the 1980 General Budget; Approval of the Annual Plan and the Associated documents; Exemption From Income Tax of the Pay, Allowances and Compensation of Employees of the State; Homes and Apartments Exempted From Real Estate tax; Income Tax Not To Be Withheld From Income and Allowances of a Retired Person"]

[Text] Following are the provisions of the resolutions of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC]:

General Budget Law

RCC

Resolution No 34

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has approved the issuance of the following law No 4 for 1980:

The Law

General Budget for 1980

Article One

A sum of 3.65 billion dinars shall be set aside for ordinary expenses during 1980 in conformity with Table A appended to this law.

Article Two

A sum of 5,213,106,426 dinars shall be set aside for expenses of the institutions of the socialist sector during 1980 in confirmity with Table B appended to this law.

Article Three

A sum of 5.24 billion dinars shall be set aside for expenses of the annual plan during 1980.

Article Four

Ordinary budget revenue for 1980 is estimated at 3.65 billion dinars in conformity with Table C appended to this law.

Article Five

Revenue of the institutions of the socialist sector during 1980 is estimated at 4,581,503,848 dinars in conformity with Table D appended to this law.

Article Six

Revenue of the annual plan during 1980 is estimated at 5.24 billion dinars only.

Article Seven

The sum of 941 million shall be appropriated as part of Section 6, Conversion Expenses, of Part 05, Directorate of General Accounts, of Chapter 5, Ministry of Finance, as a general reserve which the minister of finance has the authority to transfer and draw upon for specific purposes.

Article Eight

The appropriate minister has the authority to make the following transfers within one part with the understanding that the Ministry of Finance is to be provided with copies of the transfer order:

1. Between Section One and Section Two and from both.
2. Transfer to sections on expenses of working individuals and maintenance of existing assets but not the reverse.
3. Transfer between appropriations for materiel within each of the following sections:

Section One, Section Two, Section Three and Section Four.

Article Nine

1. Disbursement from and transfer in the appropriations of Section Six and Section Seven are confined to the Minister of Finance. The minister of Finance can give ministries authority to draw directly on some appropriations in them.

2. No transfer to or from Section Five and Section Eight can be made and transfer of appropriations between each can be made only with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

Article Ten

The minister of finance can make transfer between appropriations of the chapters of the budget for the following purposes:

1. To provide the capability to disburse to departments which it is decided to detach from one ministry and to attach to another.
2. To provide a special reserve in the Ministry of Finance for the chapters of the budget to cope with extraordinary expenses.
3. To provide the capability to disburse to offices which it is decided to attach to departments of the autonomous government or vice versa in conformity with the autonomy law.

Article Eleven

The minister of finance can appropriate sums needed for the budgets of departments which will be created during the fiscal year up to a maximum of .01 percent of the total appropriations of the ordinary budget.

Article Twelve

The appropriate minister or a person of equivalent rank has the authority to obligate or disburse up to the limits of the appropriations authorized for his ministry. He can delegate some of his authority to the heads of departments of his ministry, keeping in mind the provisions of Paragraph One of Article Nine of this law.

Article Thirteen

The minister of finance can delegate authority to ministries to send orders and conclude contracts for sums not to exceed a total of 35 million dinars credited against appropriations for 1981 and to pay an advance in this regard not to exceed 20 percent of the amount of the above orders or contracts.

Article Fourteen

Table Q appended to this law is to be considered the basis intended in Article Four of Basis Law No 25 of 1960 as amended and the authorized bases are approved by the minister of finance.

Article Fifteen

This law shall be published in the official gazette and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 1980.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Approval of the Annual Plan

RCC

Resolution No 25

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

1. To approve the annual plan for 1980 and the appended documents authorized in accordance with the decision of the cabinet adopted in its session on 2 January 1980 which contains instruction to and authority of departments directly involved in implementation, instructions for registering Iraqi contractors, sector notes and tables, timetables and the indicator guidelines which are in total considered an inseparable part of the annual plan for 1980.
2. To appropriate the sum of 5.24 billion dinars for disbursal to the chapters, sections and articles of the annual plan for 1980 in conformity with the table appended to it.
3. The planning council is to issue the necessary instructions to facilitate implementation of this resolution.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Exemption of Pay From Income Tax

RCC

Resolution No 23

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

1. a. All pay, salaries, allowances and compensations of employees of the state and the socialist sector and employees of the state working in the mixed sector shall be exempt from income tax.

b. The exemption will not cover income referred to in Paragraph 1a above if it comes from sources other than the state, the socialist sector or the mixed sector.

2. For income tax purposes, the legal deduction for a taxpayer working in the private sector shall be raised from 600 to 1,000 dinars.

3. For income tax purposes, the legal deduction for a taxpayer covered by Clause 2 above for his wife who is the head of the house or whose pay is declared jointly with his shall be raised from 600 to 1,000 dinars.

4. Any provision conflicting with the provisions of this law shall be inoperative.

5. This law shall be published in the official gazette and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 1980.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Exemption of Residences From Real Estate Tax

RCC

Resolution No 20

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

1. A residence or apartment shall be exempt from the real estate tax imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Real Estate Tax Law No 162 of 1959 as amended.

2. Taxpayers must pay taxes due for the period ending 31 December 1979.

3. The minister of finance will issue instructions to facilitate implementation of this resolution.

4. This resolution will be published in the official gazette and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 1980

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Retiree Payments

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

RCC

Resolution No 19

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

First: The following income of a retiree or his surviving family shall be exempt from income tax:

- 1. Retirement pay.**
- 2. Retirement compensation.**
- 3. End of service compensation.**
- 4. Pay for accrued regular leave of a retiree.**

Second: The provisions of this law shall apply retroactively to retirees and eligible surviving family members.

Third: This resolution shall be published in the official gazette and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 1980.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Additional Tax

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

RCC

Resolution No 22

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

First: An additional tax will be imposed and collected on the total income of a taxpayer from his real estate, to include his share derived from real estate entailed in an endowment, at the following percentages:

5 percent on 3,000 to 4,000 dinars.
8 percent on 4,000 to 6,000 dinars.
10 percent on 6,000 to 8,000 dinars.
15 percent on 8,000 to 12,000 dinars.
17 percent on 12,000 to 16,000 dinars.
20 percent on 16,000 to 20,000 dinars.
35 percent on the excess of 20,000 dinars.

Second: Any provision conflicting with the provisions of this law shall be inoperative.

Third: This resolution shall be published in the official gazette and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 1980.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Abrogation of the Agricultural Land Tax Law

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Resolution No 21

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

1. The Agricultural Land Tax Law No 60 for 1961, as amended, is hereby abrogated.
2. The monies due for the agricultural land tax in accordance with the law mentioned in clause 1 above are written off.
3. The Ministry of Finance, in coordination with other ministries concerned, will prepare a new law for the agricultural land tax with the understanding that it will be ready to go into legal effect in 1985.
4. The minister of finance will issue instructions to facilitate implementation of this resolution.
5. This resolution shall be published in the official gazette and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 1980.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Disassociation of the Desert Development Board

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

RCC

Resolution No 18

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

1. To disassociate the Desert Development Board from the Planning Council and to attach it to the Ministry of Irrigation.
2. All resolutions issued by the Planning Council with regard to the board will remain in effect until its powers, composition and rules of service in it are defined in a regulation.
3. The appropriate minister will implement this resolution.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

Powers

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

RCC Resolution No 27

Date of the resolution 5 January 1980

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session of 5 January 1980 has decided the following:

- a. To extend the authority delegated to the minister of local government in accordance with Paragraph A of the RCC Resolution No 1421 dated 27 December 1975 for 1 year ending on 31 December 1980.
2. The minister of local government and the minister of finance will implement this resolution.

Saddam Husayn

Chairman of the RCC

ARMY DAY SEES OPENING OF NEW PROJECTS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Jan 80 p 7

[Article: "Inauguration and Cornerstone Laying for New Projects on Anniversary of the Establishment of the Army; Reclamation of Extensive Areas; Schools, Nursery Schools, Homes"]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army, the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform inaugurated and laid the cornerstones for a number of agricultural projects costing a total of about 69,314,700 dinars.

The projects, which are spread throughout the governorates, include centers for peasant education and guidance, headquarters for agricultural societies and homes for persons in the agricultural sector, in addition to huge appropriations for the reclamation of vast areas of land.

On this occasion there will be inaugurations and cornerstone laying for agricultural projects in the al-Khalis, al-Ishaqi and al-Dalaj projects costing 509,000 dinars, including a storehouse for spare equipment and running water in addition to a building for the applied research board costing 130,000 dinars, a veterinary quarantine station at the international airport costing 53,000 dinars and 85 homes for the staff of the al-Nahrwan establishment and other projects costing 409,000 dinars.

Land Reclamation

The projects include reclamation of 103,000 dunums of land in al-Saqlawayah at a cost of 39 million dinars and an area of 72,000 dunums of land in al-Yusufiyah at a cost of 25 million dinars. This is part of the land of the agricultural establishment in Abu Ghurayb and is designed to ready it for agricultural use.

Residential Homes

Among the projects in the governorates of Nineveh and Dahuk on this occasion were 15 homes for staff of the agricultural sector, two marketing centers,

a runway for agricultural aircraft and road paving projects costing 1,149,800 dinars.

In the governorates of al-Ta'mim and Dhi Qar, cornerstones were laid for projects costing 340,000 dinars which included four buildings for peasant and rural education, two guidance and administrative centers, a services complex and an agricultural storm center.

Projects in the governorates of al-Anbar, al-Sulaymaniyah, Wasit, Maysan, al-Najaf and Basrah cost a total of 684,800 dinars and involved various agricultural activities, including guidance centers, veterinary clinics and agricultural administrative centers.

There will be cornerstone layings in the governorates of Babylon, Karbala' and al-Muthanna costing a total of 859,400 dinars, including the headquarters for the al-Majd collective farm, the local Tawhid cooperative, the 8 February cooperative, homes for workers, a social center, a corn plant, four storehouses, a poultry house, local administrative centers and veterinary clinics.

New Projects

As part of the country's celebrations on this occasion, cornerstones will be laid in Karbala' Governorate for a number of projects costing more than 5 million dinars.

The projects which will be inaugurated include the 15 kilometer al-Hurr-Kamaliyah road, preparatory work for the al-Hindiyah industry, a building for the Karbala' statistics directorate, four elementary schools, modern markets in the districts of 'Ayn al-Tamar and al-Hindiyah, a cold storage warehouse, a construction materials laboratory, a headquarters for the party organization in al-Hindiyah, construction of a number of projects in the subdistricts of the governorate and the lighting of a number of residential areas.

Among the projects for which cornerstones will be laid are six nursery schools, a day nursery, five elementary schools and a youth center in al-Hindiyah, a main health center with four homes for workers in the al-Ta'mim health center with four homes for workers in the al-Ta'mim health area in al-Hurr Subdistrict and the construction of modern markets, a number of casinos and eight buildings for irrigation.

The al-Basrah-Kuwait Microwave

On 6 February, the General Authority for Posts, Telephone and Telegraph will inaugurate the al-Basrah-Kuwait microwave project as part of the country's celebration of the anniversary of the founding of our heroic army.

This project will provide direct telephone, telegraph and telex communications with a capacity of 40 channels between al-Basrah and Kuwait.

A source in the authority stated that the project was completed in record time because of the exceptional efforts of the staff of the Radio and Land-line Communications Establishment as it had been scheduled to open on the anniversary of the blessed 8 February revolution.

The project is designed to establish rapid communications between al-Basrah and Kuwait to reduce the overload on the microwave lines between Baghdad and al-Basrah which had been operating because the communications could only go through Baghdad.

The project was completed under the agreement which was concluded between Iraq and Kuwait during the past two weeks.

Electricity Projects

The General Organization for Electricity will inaugurate and lay the cornerstone for a number of electricity projects costing 22,707,000 dinars.

Among the projects for which cornerstones will be laid are the Darbandkhan power station project in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate costing 22,250,000 dinars, the project for modern lighting for the al-Hillah-Karbala' and Hillah-Najaf street costing 50,000 dinars, the project to supply the northern villages in Babylon Governorate at a cost of 20,000 dinars, the project to supply the al-Haswah area and the electric grid for the quarters of veteran officers and soldiers in al-Hillah, the project to supply power to the sub-districts of al-Qasim and al-Madhatiyah and the al-Kafl station at a total cost of 125,000 dinars.

On this occasion there will be an inauguration of the projects for modern lighting of the Kirkuk-Sulaymaniyah road and the Kirkuk-Irbil road and the Daquq and Darmat station and the project to illuminate the quarter of officials and officers and the industrial quarter in Karbala' Governorate at a total cost of 263,000 dinars.

Baghdad

On this occasion Baghdad Governorate will open 42 elementary schools at a cost of 4,226,000 dinars. These schools are broken down as follows: 11 schools in the district of al-Thawrah, 10 schools in al-Rasafah, 3 schools in al-Mahmudiyah and 3 others in al-Kazimiyyah, 9 schools in al-Karakh District and 7 schools in al-Mada'in District.

(Insert)

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan will inaugurate the al-Mansur Hotel in al-Karakh next Saturday evening.

The hotel has 12 floors and cost a total of 12 million dinars. It has 256 rooms, 45 wings for VIP guests and a conference hall accommodating 600 persons in addition to subsidiary halls and restaurants.

Muhammad Fadl Husayn will lay the cornerstone for the new al-Kazimiyah hospital project which will have a 300-bed capacity and will cost 11 million dinars.

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INAUGURATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jan 80 p 7

[Article: "Coaxial Cable Project and Incoming Passengers' Building Inaugurated on the Occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the Founding of Our Victorious Army; The Country's Celebrations of This Occasion Begin"]

[Text] Sa'dun Ghaydan, prime minister and minister of transportation, yesterday morning inaugurated the coaxial cable project for the upper Euphrates at the radio and landline communications center as part of the country's celebration of the 59th anniversary of the founding of our heroic army.

Sa'di 'Abd-al-Karim, chairman of the coaxial cable board, delivered an address at the beginning of the ceremony in which he pointed out the importance of the project which cost 11 million dinars and is regarded as a major strategic project since it will provide a capacity of 2,400 channels for telephone and telegraph communications in addition to carrying color television programs to repeater stations in the area of Hadithah and al-Qa'im. The project can be expanded in the future.

Then Suhayl Najm, director of the Upper Euphrates project, delivered an address praising the interest of the leadership of the party and the revolution in completing such projects that are designed to provide the best possible services to the people.

He stated that the importance of the project can be summed up in the fact that a coaxial cable with a record six coaxial conduits will be employed on it for the first time.

The project will link the cities of the Euphrates basin and 17 other stations with telephone communications with a capacity of 2,400 telephone channels.

The project will also allow for the conveyance of color television programs over four channels from Baghdad to Hadithah, al-Qa'im and Syria and the reverse, in addition to four broadcast channels.

The project will also provide a network of emergency telephone service at the rate of one telephone instrument every two kilometers all along the road beside the project tied in with monitoring stations in al-Falujah, al-Ramadi, Hit, Hadithah, T Station, An and al-Qa'im to provide emergency assistance to drivers on the road.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Rashid Salih al-'Ali, undersecretary of the ministry of transport and communications for planning affairs, heads of organizations and a number of officials of the ministry.

Incoming Passengers' Building

Sa'dun Ghaydan, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications, yesterday afternoon also inaugurated the incoming passengers' building at Baghdad international airport which cost 4.5 million dinars. The building, which was completed in 1 year, covers a total area of 11,000 (meters?) in two floors.

The ground floor contains two large rooms, one for passengers arriving on international airlines and another for passengers on domestic flights. They can handle 1,000 passengers and 1,000 people waiting to meet passengers at one time. They have four large entryways equipped with electronic doors and four conveyor belts for luggage.

The floor also contains a bank, a post office, an office for reserving vehicles, an electronic board displaying the arrival of flights and public telephones for the use of citizens.

The upper floor has a glass-covered observation deck for people waiting to meet passengers overlooking the parking areas for aircraft and arriving passengers, a restaurant, a special hall for official meetings and an exposition area for posters, pictures and folkloric materials.

In the address which Sa'dun Ghaydan delivered on this occasion, he said that the hall should be viewed as the intermediate phase of the new Baghdad international airport on which work will be finished in 1982 and the work already completed in the building on the hall for departing passengers in the current airport.

He emphasized that the project is receiving special attention and it should be regarded as a major airport designed to improve and expand the Iraqi air transport fleet and to reach the furthest point in the Arab homeland and the furthest country with which we have friendly relations and also to place the fleet at the service of incoming passengers and implement the national development plans which the country is witnessing.

He urged the workers of the establishment to achieve a high level of responsibility and to cope with the new phase of the process in a manner as to ensure the comfort of passengers and to meet their needs and also to maintain and make the airport buildings last.

Sa'dun Ghaydan then distributed gifts of appreciation to the Iraqi engineers who supervised construction of the building.

The opening ceremony was attended by Rashid Salih al-'Ali, undersecretary of the ministry, Majid Khalil Husayn, director general of the organization, and officials of the organization.

A Public Hospital

Yesterday noon, Dr Riyad Ibrahim Husayn, minister of health, laid the cornerstone for the public hospital in al-Kazimiyah which cost 11,371,950 dinars and has a 400-bed capacity.

The General Organization for Buildings will construct the hospital, which will comprise five buildings, over the next 2 years in cooperation with two international companies.

Salah-al-Din

Celebrations began yesterday in the same connection in Salah-al-Din Governorate on the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Iraqi army.

These festivities commenced with a flight by helicopters over the cities of the governorate dropping sweets and congratulatory cards on the citizens while placards were raised extolling the commander, President Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces and the leadership of the party and the revolution.

Maysan

Yesterday Ibrahim Khadr Muhammad, governor of Maysan, opened an exhibition of creative arts held by the directorate general of education of education of the governorate in the auditorium of the al-Fayha' elementary school.

The exhibition, in which the elementary, intermediate and secondary schools of the governorate participated, included exhibits of painting, sculpture and Arabic calligraphy which played up the struggles of our intrepid army and its heroic stands.

The governor also opened another exhibition, one of color photography by the photographer, 'Ali Maz'al, held by the directorate of domestic information. It included 60 pictures which dealt with the achievements of the glorious revolution of 17 July.

On this occasion the national house for distribution and information is setting up a touring exhibit of books in all areas of Baghdad.

The exhibition, which starts today and will continue for 3 days, includes books which discuss the history and heroic deeds of the noble Iraqi army, political books and books published by the Ministry of Education and Information.

The house has decided to sell the books to citizens at reduced prices and to offer free gifts to mark this occasion.

MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANS CITED ON ARMY DAY

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Jan 80 p 6

/Article: "The President and Commander Oversees the Nation's Celebrations of the Heroic Army Holiday"/

/Excerpts/ The Nation's governorates witnessed extensive celebrations yesterday on the official and popular levels which were intermingled with the inauguration of many projects and the laying of the cornerstone for others, on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the establishment of our heroic army.

The celebrations included diverse activities and social events in commemoration of this anniversary, in the light of the achievements and gains of the party and the revolutionary command in creating a comprehensive resurgence in the country and building the desired society.

The al-Ta'mim Cement Plant

At a great ceremony, Mr Tahir Tawfiq, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and Minister of Industry and Minerals, laid the cornerstone for the al-Ta'mim Cement Factory Project which will be built at a cost of 76.5 dinars. After it is completed in 32 months' time and put into operation, its productive capacity will total 1 million tons of cement per year.

This took place in the company of Comrade 'Abdallah Fadil, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the Northern Organization Bureau, Mr 'Adil 'Abdallah, the governor of al-Ta'mim, and the comrade members of the al-Ta'mim party branch command.

On the occasion, the governor of al-Ta'mim laid the cornerstone for construction of a building for the governorate's Buildings Department and another for educational equipment centers. The project to provide modern lighting for the two entrances to the town of Kirkuk, along the general Kirkuk-al-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk-Arbil highways, was opened, while Mr 'Abd-al-Jalil Naji, the vice-governor, inaugurated a group of diverse service projects. Similar projects were also inaugurated in other governorate towns.

Arbil

In Arbil, Mr Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad, secretary to the chairman of the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region, and Mr Musa 'Abd al-Samad, acting chairman of the Executive Council of the Region, visited the officers' home in Arbil to offer greetings on the occasion to the staff general and commander of the al-Muthanna forces and the comrade secretary of the Arbil party military branch.

Mr Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, the governor of Arbil, inaugurated a group of new projects which have been completed, including the tradesmen's quarter, 18 workers' residences and a 12-classroom intermediate school.

The Concrete Block Factory

Mr Kazim Jawad Yahya, head of the General Construction Industries Organization, opened the concrete block factory yesterday morning at Abu Ghurayb: this cost 2.17 million dinars.

The project, which is to be considered one of the country's massive building projects, will produce 36 million blocks a year in two work shifts per day and three production lines.

On the occasion 36 residential apartments costing 150,000 dinars were also opened yesterday as part of the housing complex at Abu Ghurayb.

A Vocational Training Center

Dr Farhan Jalal, head of the General Industrial Development Organization, opened the electric and electronic industries vocational training center in the al-Za'faraniyah area yesterday noon.

Mr Arshad Ahmad Muhammad, governor of al-Sulaymaniyah, Comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq Faris, secretary of the al-Sulaymaniyah branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the comrade members of the party branch, the heads of the central departments and professional and popular organizations, the President of al-Sulaymaniyah University and faculty deans visited the Officers' Home and exchanged greetings with the staff general and commander of the al-Mansur forces, the comrade secretary of the party military branch and the senior officers in the governorate.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq Faris, secretary of the party's al-Sulaymaniyah branch command, opened the party organization building in the District of Dukan, costing 45,000 dinars, with three buildings attached to it, in the midst of a party held on the occasion attended by the governor, the district administrative officer and a number of officials in the province.

Dr Marith Jamil Mahdi, head of the General Electricity Department, laid the foundation stone for the Darbandkhan Dam hydroelectric plant project costing 22.25 million dinars.

al-Qadisiyah

In the governorate of al-Qadisiyah, Mr Salim Muhammad Ghazzal, governor of al-Qadisiyah, Comrade Khalid Muhsin Mahmud, secretary of the al-Qadisiyah branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the staff general and commander of the Abu 'Ubaydah forces opened and laid cornerstones for a number of various projects costing more than 16 million dinars.

Among the projects inaugurated were 30 homes for noncommissioned officers, the al-Diwaniyah Commercial Preparatory School, the headquarters of the People's Army command in the District of 'Afak, a fuel depot in the residential section, a kindergarten, an ordinary market, a police post, a branch center in the District of al-Shamiyah, 10 houses for people with limited incomes in al-Sudayr, and 13 homes for engineers and members of the People's Army in the capital of the governorate.

Dhi Qar

Mr Mukhlif Hardan Mahmud, governor of Dhi Qar, opened factories yesterday morning for the General Aluminum Parts Manufacturing Organization in the town of al-Nasiriyah as part of the country's celebrations of the 59th anniversary of the establishment of our heroic army.

Nineveh

Yesterday the Governorate of Nineveh witnessed extensive celebrations in honor of this brilliant anniversary, during which numerous projects were inaugurated and the foundation stones of others were laid by Mr Subhi 'Ali al-Khalaf, governor of Nineveh, and Comrade Sa'di Mahdi, secretary of the Nineveh party branch command, at a cost of 32 million dinars.

The foundation stone was laid for the Iraqi National Students' Federation, Nineveh branch building to the west of the city of Mosul, to be completed in 2 years, and the garbage processing plant project which lies 13 kilometers to the northeast of the city of Mosul with a design capacity to treat 300 tons of garbage per day and convert it into fertilizer.

The governor of Nineveh and the comrade secretary of the Nineveh party branch command offered greetings on the beloved occasion at the hall of the Mosul officers' club to the general deputy commander of the forces and the al-Qa'qa' officers.

Wasit

The governor of Wasit inaugurated the project of electronic equipment to operate the al-Kut barrage sluice gates costing half a million dinars, the respiratory diseases hospital, the preventive health center, the Dabbuni-Badrah road costing 3 million dinars, 14 primary schools containing from six to 18 classrooms, costing 633,000 dinars, a municipal recreation center, two esplanades, an irrigation and drainage system, and the al-'Aziziyah Agricultural Preparatory School costing 387,000 dinars, in addition to a number of service projects costing 653,000 dinars.

Karbala'

On this immortal occasion, Mr 'Adnan Da'ud, governor of Kharbala', and Comrade Khalil Ibrahim, member of the Euphrates Organization Office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received civilian, military, media scholars, reverend religious men, and heads and members of vocational and popular organizations who greeted them in the governorate building.

During a great mass celebration, Comrade Khalil Ibrahim, member of the Euphrates Organization Office of the party, opened the al-Hindiyah section command headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and a number of service projects including the paving of streets, lighting projects, a fire-fighting center, and modern shops costing 3,154,000 dinars.

Basrah

In the Subdistrict of al-Harithah, a People's Army Command was opened along with a building for crop protection research, four residential buildings, a public esplanade, two secondary and elementary schools, a model shelter for storing dates, and a group of municipality buildings, and the foundation stone was laid for a modern storehouse in the date receiving center.

al-Muthanna

Mr Jawdah 'Abd-al-Majid, governor of al-Muthanna, and Comrade 'Adnan 'Abd Hamad, secretary of the al-Muthanna branch command of the party, opened six residential buildings in al-Samawah comprising 72 apartments, 13 primary schools, a stationery storehouse, a cooler for school meals, six tourist cabins at Sawah Lake, the new al-Rumaythah Bridge, the paving of a system of streets in the Subdistricts of al-Sudayr, al-Hilal and al-Warka', and other service facilities.

Diyala

Mr Suhayl Najm 'Abd, governor of Diyala, and Comrade Qasim Yahya al-Rajab, secretary of the Diyala branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, visited the commander of the Sa'd forces and command officers and presented them with greetings on this occasion.

al-Anbar

In the town of al-Rumadi, the governor, accompanied by the secretary of the al-Anbar branch of the party, opened the al-Rumadi chamber of commerce costing 53,000 dinars, the dormitory building for the al-Rumadi industrial preparatory school costing 250,000 dinars, and a hotel, restaurant and recreation area for the municipality costing 177,000 dinars, while the foundation stone was laid for the educational materials center in the al-Mal'ab district at a cost of 200,000 dinars and the nationality department building in the province.

Maysan

Mr Ibrahim Khidr Muhammad, governor of Maysan, inaugurated the Maysan dairy plant, whose productive capacity will total 5 tons of milk and a quarter ton of cheese a day, four schools, a kindergarten in al-'Imarah, and a paved road leading to the al-'Imarah nursery.

The foundation stone was laid for construction of a factory to produce plastic accessories with a capacity of 800 tons of sewer pipes and high-pressure water pipes per year, an educational materials center, an international playing field, and a vocational training center in al-'Imarah.

Dahuk

Mr Yahya Muhammad Rashid, governor of Dahuk, laid the foundation stone yesterday for the construction of 10 residential buildings in the Muhammad-kay area of the town of Dahuk at a cost of 5 million dinars to include 220 apartments. He also laid the foundation stone for a government building in Dahuk costing 367,000 dinars.

Babil

Mr Kamil Yasin, governor of Babil, implanted the foundation stone for implementation of the project to expand the al-Mahawil brick factory at a cost of 11 million dinars.

On this occasion a celebration was held in the plant, attended by Comrade 'Abd al Rahim 'Abd-al-Hamid, secretary of the Babil branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, comrade members of the branch command, and a number of officials.

al-Najaf

Mr Mizban Khidr Hadi, governor of al-Najaf, in the company of the comrade secretary, the members of the popular command, and the heads of the governorate departments visited the al-Najaf site command and offered greetings to the commander, officers and ranks of the al-Najaf military site.

After that, the governor inaugurated projects costing 5.2 million dinars comprising a building for the domestic information department, a building for the al-Haydari theater, the al-Haydariyah canning plant, and 16 primary, secondary and intermediary schools.

The cornerstone was laid for construction of other projects costing 24 million dinars including People's Army headquarters, the Technological Institute building, summer swimming pools, a building for the directorate general of education in the governorate, and the nationality department, model sporting clubs in the al-Muthanna district, an agricultural institute in al-Kufah, dormitories for male and female teachers' schools, and 60 intermediate, primary and secondary schools.

Salah-al-Din

In the Governorate of Salah-al-Din, foundation stones were laid for projects, and projects were inaugurated, whose costs came to 1,176,000 dinars.

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CSO: 4802

COMMERCIAL SECTOR RECEIVES BIG NEW ALLOCATIONS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Jan 80 p 7

/Article: "Minister of Commerce to AL-THAWRAH: 46 Percent Increase in Allocations to Commercial Sector over Last Year"/

/Text/ Mr Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of commerce, stressed that the socialist trade sector will be entering an important new stage in foreign trade planning this year which will embody the main trends of the economic policy of the party and revolutionary command.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH's correspondent, the Revolutionary Command Council member stated that the socialist trade sector has taken over as the central connecting link for the requisite implementation; it is an organic link between the foreign trade plan and the comprehensive national development plan, a link which shows the influential role of the commercial sector on the rates and capabilities of implementation in other economic sectors and its effect on the attainment of results from the implementation of their productive tasks and sectoral commitments.

He added that this year's foreign trade plan has granted priority to importing investment project implementation requirements, supplying primary and intermediary materials needed to operate productive as well as service projects at design capacity and responding to the investment projects' construction requirements for imported goods at the requisite specifications, as well as supplies of productive goods to cover local market requirements.

Supply of Consumer Goods

The minister of commerce pointed out that the plan has stressed the supply of necessary consumer goods for the citizens, such as foodstuffs, in particular food for sick people and patients, and clothing and games for them, in a manner which will guarantee that they are maintained in the local market in suitable volumes.

He stressed that it was necessary to retain an inventory of various materials, in particular basic consumer goods and primary materials, in a manner consonant with the importance of the material and its fitness for storage, in light of predictions by specialized bodies, as well as to devote attention to the maintenance of balance between local production, imports and inventories on the one hand and demand and export forecasts on the other, also taking into consideration previously allocated sums performance levels, actual imports, and volumes of commodities which have not arrived.

Attention to Agreements And Economic Plans

The Revolutionary Command Council member also stressed that the plan has given attention to agreements and economic and commercial plans signed by Iraq, fraternal Arab countries and foreign countries in view of their extreme importance in regulating the country's economic and commercial relations and establishing them on bases which will achieve mutual benefit and reciprocal treatment and will reduce the pressures of fluctuations in international economic conditions.

Concerning allocations to the new foreign trade plan (import program), the minister said that the socialist sector accounts for 90 percent of entire allocations, underlining the fact that this sector holds the leadership role in the country's imports activity.

46 Percent Increase over Last Year's Allocations

He added that the socialist trade sector's allocations total 35.5 percent of the socialist sector's allocations, that is, an increase of 46 percent over last year's allocations, taking into consideration the supply of consumer goods in general and foodstuffs in particular since foodstuffs' share of direct consumption is 58.6 percent of all consumer goods.

He stated that the socialist industrial sector's allocations totalled 19.6 percent of total allocations, an increase of 27 percent over the allocations for last year, because of an increase in the volume of operating materials necessary for implementation of the sector's productive plans, the full exploitation of productive capacity and operation of projects which are expected to start producing, in addition to demands for the implementation of investments which are being carried out or for whose construction commitments have been made.

The governmental department sector's share totalled 34.9 percent of total allocations, or an increase of approximately 59 percent over last year.

Concerning percentage allocations to the mixed and private sectors, the minister stated that these reached 8.6 percent this year, or a 73.7 percent increase over last year. The mixed and private industrial sector absorbed the main share of this increase since that sector's share of total

allocations came to 7.5 percent, or an increase of 63.6 percent over last year, while the proportion of private commercial activity's share came to 1.1 percent of the permitted import commodities.

The minister pointed out that electric and non-electric machinery, equipment and productive accessories absorbed 56.7 percent of capital goods allocations, followed by various transportation vehicles, allocations for which came to 19.7 percent, while construction materials, iron, steel and lumber absorbed 31.7 percent of total intermediate commodity allocations, followed by foodstuffs used in processing, with a proportion of 16.3 percent.

Consumer Goods Allocations

He stated that the proportion of consumer goods allocations in the plan came to 17.4 percent, or an increase of 82 percent over last year. Foodstuffs accounted for 58.6 percent of these allocations, followed by household appliances with 11.3 percent, clothing goods and rugs with 7.9 percent and other consumer goods with 22.2 percent, including sedans, which constitute 9.2 percent of consumer goods allocations.

In conclusion of his talk, the minister affirmed "We are not leaving the effect of the rise in world prices on these increases out of our calculation; however, the fact of the matter consist of an ambitious, sincere desire to respond to citizens' requirements in the light of a rising standard of living and social standard within legitimate, essential volumes."

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CSO: 4802

NEW BUDGET REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jan 80 p 6

/Article: "First Deputy Prime Minister Stresses That This Year's Budget Is Aimed at Strengthening Socialist Construction and Building the New Man"/

/Text/ Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister, declared that many considerations have been made in the 1980 budget. In most aspects, the budget is distinguished from those prepared in past years not just in terms of sums allocated but also in the priorities authorized and in the actual application in its implementation of the decentralization formula at high rates approaching 100 percent.

In a statement to Iraqi News Agency, he stated that preparation of the budget has essentially emphasized the attainment of central goals, principally the consolidation of socialist construction, the strengthening of bonds between current and investment spending in a manner guaranteeing the preservation of the balance of supply and demand, the redistribution of national income, the attainment of a balanced distribution of social and economic services in a just form between rural and urban areas, and the affirmation of the importance of human development and building the new man.

Here is the text of the statement:

The 1980 budget which was discussed in the Council of Ministers session held 2 January 1980 under the chairmanship of the president and commander, and attended by undersecretaries, a number of specialists and advanced staffs, represents the last year of the general plan for the years 1976-80, and most aspects of it were discussed /line missing/ the budgets prepared in past years not only with respect to the amounts allocated but also with respect to the priorities approved and the actual application of the formula of decentralization at high implementation rates approaching 100 percent. This means that it will be possible to achieve the goals for which the budget was set forth, because, in the event it is not possible to

carry out a certain plan in complete form, at the same time that will mean that the stipulated objectives for which the budget was set out will not be implemented.

Providing Equipment and Capacities

According to the president and commander's directives asserting that the year 1980 would be the base year and the year of choice, especially in the field of granting powers to the executive agencies as the basis and point of departure for propagating and developing these agencies through the implementation of the coming plan for the years 1980-85. We, in order to provide all the necessary equipment to put all capacities to use and make all necessary opportunities available to liberate manpower at various levels to produce and act free of red tape and the old work formulas which were set out in circumstances totally different from our current situation, have translated this valuable directive from the president and commander which proceeds from the party's thinking and practical theory on the management and exercise of democracy into planning and executive action at the same time, by proceeding to hold a number of meetings on the governorate level as well as the level of the capital and the ministers, in order to ascertain the bureaucratic problems obstructing implementation and to formulate the necessary powers for various levels while guaranteeing central guidance and followup. Thus, we have arrived at serious, practical recommendations propounded by people working at various levels. As a result of these recommendations, clear instructions have been prepared and broad powers have been conferred within the context of the budget. These instructions and powers have relied upon the field experience of staffs which are in firm contact in this field in order to deal with problems and obstacles which executive personnel had previously faced in the previous stage and which were a main cause and obstacle in the way of improving executive capability.

The Bases of Budget Preparation

On this basis, through the directives of the president and commander at numerous meetings in Council of Ministers, the Revolutionary Command Council and the lead party committees regarding remedying obstacles, providing of optimum circumstances for all workers in all sectors on a basis of optimum exploitation and use of capacities, and granting extreme importance to service, health and youth sectors, the following foundations have been provided for in preparation of the budget:

1. The growth rates in the Ministries of Health, Education, Culture, Information and Youth will be distinct from that of the budget as a whole. In general, the budget has grown at a rate of approximately 14 percent, a relatively high rate which is greater than the ordinary rate, which is approximately 7 percent. However, the growth rate of the ministries which have been given special attention in implementation is as follows:

- A. The Ministry of Health, 53 percent.
- B. The Ministry of Education, 29 percent.
- C. The Ministry of Culture and Information /no figure/.
- D. The Ministry of Youth, 52 percent.

This special dispensation in growth rates has well known justifications in terms of coping with developments in health affairs in the country as a feature of the progress and civilization to which our country aspires and the application of anti-illiteracy, compulsory education and free schooling programs which require special support for the sector.

The revolution's interest in youth as the generation of the future and in developing cultural and information affairs to propagate the thinking of the revolution throughout the national arena and to enlighten citizens intellectually about the course of their revolution and the thinking of their leading party, demands this exceptional growth rate in these sectors.

Central Goals

2. In its preparation, the budget has essentially relied upon the attainment of central goals, namely:

- 1. Consolidating socialist construction and endeavoring to develop the basic pillars of the national economy and raise the citizens' standard of living by expanding and improving the quality of public services.
- 2. Strengthening the bonds between current and investment spending in a manner which will guarantee the maintaining of balance between supply and demand in the existing equilibrium which will furnish the ingredients necessary for stimulating production, raising production capacities and improving production quality.
- 3. Emphasizing the role the budget can play in redistributing national income through the volume of credits allocated to government departments, in addition to the amounts allocated to price subsidy support.
- 4. Attaining a balance in distribution of social and economic services in a just manner between rural and urban areas.
- 5. Emphasizing the importance of building new man and on human investment by giving priority in allocations to health, education, information and youth sector services.

Avoiding Wasteful Spending

6. Avoiding wasteful, conspicuous spending in the budget, with emphasis on the need to devote attention to paragraphs dealing with the preservation of national wealth by allocating the sums needed for maintaining existing wealth, since that will play a great role in extending the life of what exists and is fixed and in raising its productive capacity and expenditures dedicated to modernizing and developing such work methods as the introduction of modern mechanization, training courses and the like.

7. Emphasizing the principle of linking wages with productivity by approving and supporting incentive systems through financial allocations which will create the desired balance between rights and duties.

8. Emphasizing the principle of coping with disguised unemployment through effective measures and seeking to constrict the volume of this unemployment in all departments, while paying attention to a balance between the supply and demand for the workforce in the country in order to create new classes, retain vacancies or carry vacancies on from one year to the next.

3. One of the important aspects on which the budget has concentrated is that of maintenance and repair: this aspect has been almost neglected and has been of less pressing importance; therefore, the budget has granted special importance to this aspect by comprising specialized staffs for this purpose: allocations to this subject are several times greater than in the previous stage.

4. The budget has also concentrated on the subject of modernizing and developing government agencies through the use of advanced on the job equipment in the form of computers, microfilm equipment and everything bearing on job improvement by allocating approximately 24.5 million dinars for this purpose, with full powers of spending and implementation in this subsection.

According to the president and commander's directives regarding maintenance and development and modernization aspects, this principle will continue to be emphasized in each year's budget in order to constitute a platform for bringing about the preservation of national wealth on the one hand and the capacity to keep abreast of development and modernization in the world.

5. In the light of the foregoing goals and principles, the approval of the budget has been secured at allocations estimated at 3.65 billion dinars, for a growth rate of approximately 14 percent over that for 1979 and a growth rate approximately 3,000 percent greater than that of the 1968 budget.

Finally, in addition to the directives of the president and commander concerning formulas on followup, field visits authorized as a practical means of followup, and powers approved in the budget as a practical formula for

proceeding toward implementation, we believe that these will to a large degree contribute to improving implementation capacity and we feel great hope that the budget will achieve its stated goals.

On this occasion we urge all employees, and also citizens and beneficiaries, to cooperate and strive seriously to provide the suitable circumstances for implementation and for raising the level of performance. We have great hopes and high confidence in all good employees and the cooperation of the citizens and believe that the year 1980 will be the best example of qualitatively and quantitatively good implementation according to the directives and the leadership of the fighting president and commander Saddam Husayn along the road toward the attainment of our Arab nation's goals of unity, freedom and socialism. May God grant success.

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CSO: 4802

• NEW BENEFITS ISSUED TO POLICE, SECURITY OFFICIALS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Jan 80 pp 1, 11

/Article: "Issuance of a Statute on Service Allocations to Policemen in Domestic Security Forces"/

/Text/ Yesterday the statute on service allocations for policemen in the internal security forces was issued. This will be considered to be in effect as of the first of this month. The text of the statute is as follows:

In the name of the people:

The Office of the President:

Relying on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 57 of the temporary constitution and Paragraph Two of Article 69 of the amended Domestic Security Forces Service and Retirement Law No 1 for the Year 1978, has issued the following statute:

Statute on Service Allocations for Policemen in the Domestic Security Forces

Article 1. First: Officers will be granted monthly allocations as follows:

A. Allocations of 20 percent of salary will be withdrawn from officers when domiciled in a government house free of charge.

B. Paid allowances for clothing of 12 dinars. The minister of the interior can withhold these allocations from an officer for a period not to exceed 6 months in the event he wears a military uniform which is not adequate; this will be increased in the event of repetition and will not exceed 1 year.

C. Paid service allocations totalling 10 dinars for the salary of lieutenant colonel (domestic) up to major general (domestic), and 8 dinars for the salary of lieutenant to major (domestic).

Second: Agents will be granted monthly allocations as follows:

A. Housing allocations of 12 percent of salary which will be withdrawn from them when domiciled in a government house free of charge.

B. Paid allowances for clothing of 7 dinars per month. The minister of the interior can withhold these allocations from any agent for a period not to exceed 6 months in the event he wears a uniform which is not adequate; this will be increased in the event of repetition and will not exceed 1 year.

Article 2. First: Policemen in the General Traffic Department will be given paid allowances for adequate uniform as follows (people working on streets only):

A. 10 dinars for agents.

B. Seven dinars for noncommissioned and police officers.

Second: Policemen working in the Riot Squad will receive monthly allocations as follows:

A. Officers, 15 dinars.

B. Agents, 10 dinars.

C. Noncommissioned officers and policemen, 7 dinars.

Third: The minister of the interior may grant the allocations referred to in Paragraphs First and Second of this article to policemen whose duties by nature demand it.

Article 3. First: Technical and professional policemen will be granted the following allocations:

A. Seven dinars paid monthly to officers.

B. Six dinars paid monthly to agents.

C. Five dinars monthly to noncommissioned officers, mounted policemen, male nurses, veterinarians, musicians, cobblers, tailors, blacksmiths, saddlemakers, gunsmiths, electricians, equipment operators, trainers, fingerprinting experts, photographers, construction workers, dyers, pipe and air conditioner repairmen, barbers, cooks, upholsterers, artists, sketchers, lathe operators, binders, typesetters, automobile washers and lubricators, and glaziers.

D. Six dinars monthly to noncommissioned officers and policemen who are blacksmiths, carpenters, welders, motorcyclists, vehicle drivers,

motorboat operators, automobile painters, barrelmakers, tire repairmen, radio operators, communications experts, printers and linotype operators.

E. Nine dinars per month to noncommissioned officers and policemen mechanics, machinists, lathe operators, automobile electricians, plumbers, radio and precision repairmen, computer operators and microfilm operators.

F. The same bases and requirements as are required of persons in other government departments and any other instructions issued in regard to them will be applied to all crafts listed in First above.

G. Linotypists will receive the allocations granted to civilian linotypists.

Second: It is conditional that people to whom the allocations listed in Paragraph First of this article are granted:

A. Pass a special test before a competent technical committee.

B. Actually engage in the vocation, trade or specialization.

C. The allocations for category or skill will be severed, the person will be prohibited from practicing the vocation, and occupational hazard allowance will be withheld from anyone who does not actually practice his vocation or specialization.

Third: The minister of the interior, with the agreement of the minister of finance, may grant policemen allowances for categories, skills or vocations or any other allocations in addition to their salaries as listed in the amended Domestic Security Forces Service and Retirement Law No 1 for the Year 1978.

Article 4. Policemen possessing specializations will be granted occupational hazard and risk allowances at a rate of 15 percent of monthly salary in the case of people working in the police dog wing, explosives and chemical laboratory experts, and people employed in fingerprinting corpses.

Article 5. First: The allocations mentioned in this statute will continue to be granted in the following cases unless a special provision is issued concerning them:

A. Normal vacations.

B. Delegation.

C. Foreign assignment.

D. Death, captivity and detainment.

Second: The allocations referred to in this statute will be withheld from persons receiving them during escape, absence, imprisonment, suspension, or detention, and will be restored to them only as of the date they are returned or released.

Third: The category or skill allocations will be withheld and continued receipt of vocation and occupational hazard allowances will be proscribed for those receiving them if they do not actually exercise their vocation or specialization.

Article 6. The total service allocations granted to policemen in accordance with this statute may not exceed 75 percent of salary per month except in cases in which a special decree is issued by the president.

Article 7. Statutes and instructions issued by virtue of the Civil Service Law, unless a special stipulation is issued in their regard, will apply in this statute if there is no conflict in provisions.

Article 8. The minister of the interior may issue the necessary instructions to facilitate the implementation of this statute.

Article 9. This statute will be effective as of 1 January 1980.

/signed/ Saddam Husayn

President

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INDUSTRIAL SECTOR EXPORTS MORE SULFUR

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 31 Dec 79 p 7

[Article by Qasim Salman 'Abbas: "During This Year 750,000 Tons of Sulfur Were Exported to Various World Markets; Praise for the Role of Iraqi Staff in Managing Production"]

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of our Iraqi staff in the al-Mishraq General Organization for Sulfur, the establishment has been able to market 750,310 tons of sulfur this year in various markets throughout the world.

Dr Ahmad Muhammad Isma'il, director general of the establishment, stated that production of sulfur first began in 1972 and it was first marketed in 1973 when the establishment sold more than 173,538 tons of sulfur in foreign markets.

He stressed that Iraqi sulfur meets international specifications and this has given it a big share of Arab and international markets, most importantly the markets of India, China, Tunisia, Tanzania, Syria, Bangladesh, Lebanon and Jordan, in addition to the fact that there are many bids from various countries throughout the world.

He added that during the coming year, Iraqi sulfur will fill 25 percent of India's total requirements and will meet many requirements of Arab countries, including Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco, and the needs of friendly countries, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Tanzania and Turkey.

New Projects

With regard to future projects, he referred to the fact that there are two major projects, a project to extract sulfur and sulfuric acid from waste and a plant to produce 150 tons of sulfuric acid a day and 150,000 tons of sulfur a year with completion expected during 1982.

He stated that al-Misraq is no longer just a mine for producing sulfur but has been transformed into a complex for the production of sulfuric acid, powdered sulfur and alum and is on its way to being an integrated complex

for the establishment of an integral industry based on sulfur or sulfuric acid, an industry which in turn will become involved in the production of many products that are manufactured in the country.

With regard to union work, Hasan 'Ali Sulayman, head of the union committee in the establishment, praised the democratic spirit prevailing between the management and the union and its positive impact on increasing production for the establishment to fulfill all its contracts with foreign markets.

He stressed that the union constantly compensates outstanding workers and has held many production seminars where the workers were urged to excel in their work to raise the reputation of Iraqi sulfur in world markets.

It should be mentioned that the establishment's export plan for the coming year involves the export of more than 800,000 tons of sulfur.

The al-Misraq General Organization for Sulfur last Friday celebrated the eighth anniversary of the first flow of sulfur from Iraqi mines in 1972.

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BRIEFS

ROAD PAVING IN AL-NAJAF--A number of country road projects are now being carried out in the Governorate of al-Najaf totalling 300 kilometers in length at a total cost of more than 18 million dinars. These roads lie in rural areas. They include the Mishkhab-al-Qadisiyah Road project, 15 kilometers long, costing 1.5 million dinars, on which construction is 80 percent completed and which it is hoped will be inaugurated in the coming 7 April ceremonies. They also include the Kunah-Kharkhit Road, which is 10 kilometers long and will be opened soon and the Kunah-'Ilwah al-Fahl-al-Hawatim Road which is 10 kilometers long and costs half a million dinars. The construction on this is 75 percent complete and this will also be opened in the April holidays. Work is underway on the Kunah-Abu Sukhayr Road lying east of the Euphrates, 25 kilometers in length; construction on this is 40 percent completed and it will cost 1.5 million dinars; it is considered an important agricultural road. Construction is also underway on an overland road parallel to the strategic pipeline for a distance of 160 kilometers within the governorate boundaries, construction on which is 30 percent complete, and the Kufah-Qazwiniyah Road 15 kilometers in length, costing half a million dinars, in addition to construction of all road and bridge maintenance activities costing half a million dinars. Concerning new projects this year, construction will begin on the Najaf-Karbala' (second route) project, 40 kilometers long, at an estimated cost of 3 million dinars, and the al-Najaf-Limestone Quarry road 25 kilometers long costing an estimated 1.5 million dinars. /Text/ /Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
11 Jan 80 p 7/ 11887

CSO: 4802

AUTONOMY DISCUSSION FEARED SIDELINED IN EVENT OF CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jan 80 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Colorblindness and the Notion of Extinction"]

[Text] If reports of a plan to hold a tripartite summit of the Camp David participants are true, we insist on confirming what we have thought more than once, namely that discussion of the "autonomy" plan will be sidelined in comparison with subjects of a strategic nature which link the participants on many levels. This means that one cannot expect new "breakthroughs" in the autonomy negotiations. Perhaps this is confirmed anew by several developments which may seem peripheral, but when they are shown in their true dimension, they are clear indications of what the Camp David participants expect to impose on the peoples of the region.

Otherwise, why this Israeli campaign in which the entire government band is participating with the conspicuous headlines confirming American opposition to an independent Palestinian state?

What is the meaning of the statements of more than one Israeli official to the effect that the "autonomy" plan is a vital and important matter to Israel in order to prevent the establishment of the Palestinian state?

Next, why did Israeli officials choose to move up the date for "normalizing" relations with the al-Sadat regime? This is inevitably linked with the violent reactions in the Arab world to the announcement that the "opposition" of al-Sadat's delegation to the Israeli proposals concerning the so-called "powers of the administrative council" is merely a propaganda bubble to reduce resentment against a regime which, it can no longer be denied, stands in the same ranks as American imperialism and Israel?

We in turn ask, "Why don't al-Sadat's propaganda media stop trying to deceive themselves by presenting al-Sadat's regime as a defender of Palestinian rights through its "rejection" of what happened previously, even though it had clearly met with this at Camp David?"

It is certain that the Egyptian regime is passing through a phase of color-blindness these days.

We for our part once again stand and witness its outcome and its designs which have in themselves carried the notion of extinction since their birth.

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CSO: 4802

NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT RIDICULED

Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jan 80 pp 1, 5

/Article: "Statement by AL-SHA'B: The Paradise of Normalization!"/

/Text/ All the evidence and data surrounding talk about what the media of al-Sadat and Israel prefer to call "normalization of relations" leave no room for doubt that a military alliance, or "strategic coordination" in less oppressive language, will enter into the context of "normalization" in the future.

This is the import of all the Egyptian-Israeli contacts which have been made from the time al-Sadat and Menachem Begin signed the settlement treaty in 1979 until the Israeli government approved the appointment of Eliahu Ben Elissar as its ambassador to Egypt on 13 January 1980.

Assuredly, when Eliahu Ben Elissar declared that his basic concern would be to spread Zionist thinking throughout Egypt in the course of his work as Israel's ambassador in Cairo, he was putting the final touches on the "portrait of the normalization" which is being composed daily through joint meetings, contacts, and conferences in Egypt and Israel.

Here we can "reveal" that this announcement of Ben Elissar's is less shrewd than that of Sa'd Murtdada, the Egyptian regime's first ambassador to Israel. Unlike Ben Elissar, Murtdada did not tell Israeli television's correspondent yesterday in Cairo that his concern would be to persuade the Israelis that "Pharaohism" is the movement of "National Liberation of the Egyptian people," as Ben Elissar said regarding Zionism. This matter is certainly relevant.

What then will Sa'd Murtdada bring with him to Tel Aviv?

It is certain that he will be afflicted with the contagious malady of boredom and red tape in fewer months than can be counted on the fingers of the hand unless discussions begin on sending a military attache for each regime to Cairo and Tel Aviv.

At that point he will be able to bandy about, in his dialect--of whose Egyptianness only the name will remain--that this is all happening in the paradise of normalization.

As for Butrus Ghali, it will be in his capability to continue to talk about liaison or contact offices, shops or places of other names in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The rulers of Egypt and Israel will declare that this is going on within the paradise of normalization, under a verdant cover of normalization.

However, the question raises itself: How many abnormal things can enter into a garden of normalization?

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CSO: 4802

SUPPORTERS OF ISLAMABAD CONFERENCE ATTACKED

Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jan 80 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Questions on the Way to Islamabad"]

[Text] Questions are arising with the approaching date of the opening of the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries in Islamabad next Saturday.

Perhaps the first question to arise concerns the character of those calling for this conference and their objectives. Has the ruler of Pakistan, who butchered both democracy and its leaders in his country and came to power on the back of tanks, begun to aspire to the values of Islam?

Has Qabus ibn Sa'id, the little agent of imperialism who sought help from the troops of the mad Shah to suppress his people, become one of those striving for the independence of peoples? Have the rulers of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, the odor of whose scandalous political, economic and moral acts has offended one's nose, become champions of the rights of oppressed peoples?

Above all, does American imperialism think it can actually deceive Islamic peoples and convince them that Washington is intent on protecting Islam and defending the rights of peoples?

The smallest child in the deserts of Saudi Arabia, Dhofar and South Lebanon knows full well the ugly face of the United States and its agents. He knows that those who are beating the drums while on the way to Islamabad covet seats of power above all.

Another question arises. Is it a coincidence that the conference convened on the date set for normalizing Egyptian-Israeli relations in accordance with agreements rejected by the Arab and Islamic peoples, or was the Islamabad conference supposed to contribute toward normalizing both Egyptian-Islamic relations, severed by the Fes conference, and Egyptian-Arab relations, severed by the Baghdad conference? The answer to this question is to confirm the evil intentions of the organizers of the conference on the basis of their solid relations with the United States.

Here would like to ask those going to Islamabad why their voices are concealed when the occupied Arab territories are discussed? Why do their decency, sense of honor and piety die when Muslim revolutionary Iran is subjected to the conspiracies of imperialism? Why don't they remember that there are Muslim peoples being massacred by weapons of the United States in the Southern Philippines and in the Western Sahara? Are there several criteria which the reactionary states are trying to use in order to disguise the real criterion which defines their policy which is none other than the desires of the United States and the interests of its rulers? If Washington and its allies are trying to create a "scarecrow" of the so-called Soviet threat, we are certain that this imaginary "scarecrow" will be transformed into a different reality in the face of imperialism. It will be shaped and formed by the struggles of Islamic peoples and all peoples of the world who know that their enemy first and foremost is American imperialism.

Let them go to Islamabad. That is the path of regimes which hide in Islam, and it is free of them. As for the peoples, they have other paths, one of which perhaps is the path to Teheran.

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CSO: 4802

ISRAEL SEEN TAKING EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN TO OWN PROFIT

Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jan 80 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "New Tricks of Israeli Policy"]

[Text] Successive reactions in Israel and the Arab world to the recent developments witnessed by Iran and Afghanistan conclusively confirm that the United States of America has succeeded in carrying its cold war against the Soviet Union to the region of the Middle East after having failed in other "hotspots" in the world.

At the same time, the military and political leadership in Israel wishes to confirm its strategic importance in the Middle East as far as America is concerned. However, the true objectives of this Israeli strategy reveal the current "special situation" in which this leadership finds itself in the light of recent changes in a number of countries of the region.

According to former Israeli foreign minister Moshe Dayan in an interview with the newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST on Friday, the day before yesterday, through America's ability to mobilize Western public opinion against the Soviet Union due to the events of Afghanistan, Israel hopes the world will better understand the reasons for Israel's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state on the occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Nevertheless, Israeli disappointment over the announcement by more than one American official that Washington cannot include Israel in a "security arrangement" in the Middle East bringing together all the countries of the region which gush into the service of imperialism has not prevented Moshe Dayan and other Israelis from saying that the tension existing in the region and American opportunism exposed after the events of Afghanistan in the Arab and Islamic worlds do not mean that Israel must agree to the establishment of the Palestinian state as a guaranty to alleviate the above-mentioned tension at the expense of its security and stability.

On this basis, Israel is moving quickly to take advantage of these events in its confrontation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has announced its support of the Soviet role in Afghanistan, by brandishing this

support in the face of the countries which have announced outright opposition to the presence of Soviet troops in this country neighboring on India, Afghanistan [sic] and Iran.

Just as Israel has attempted to take advantage of the firm relations between the Iranian revolution and the PLO in its war against the PLO, this attempt will continue regardless of what happens in Afghanistan.

However, the warning of Yigael Yadin, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, late last week concerning the consequence of the American attempt to internationalize autonomy negotiations among the parties of Camp David shows what Israel can gain from its attempts to throw itself into the struggle between the two superpowers in the region and confirms that the effect of this warning applies more to Israel than to the region.

7811
CSO: 4802

ANALYSIS OF SYRIA'S STRATEGIC MOTIVES, CAPABILITIES

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 80 pp 11, 18

[Article by Schiff on Asad]

[text] For several weeks now, personalities in Israel have been speaking in hints or explicit fashion of the possibility that Syria's ruler will take belligerent steps against Israel. Prime Minister Menahem Begin has referred to the plots being concocted on the other side and to Israel's awareness of them. And now, a senior official, the chief of the Northern command, has made express statements: Asad is interested in war with Israel.

Presumably, so many broad hints would not have been made if Israel did not have intelligence on which to base them. Since, fortunately, intelligence files are not as open to the public as are Cabinet meeting minutes, we have no alternative but to explore the reasons that are likely to spur Asad to undertake hostile activities against Israel and the reasons which are likely to deter him from such a reckless step.

Asad's regime has been in difficult circumstances for many months. Internal problems have become exacerbated and, despite all his efforts, he has not succeeded in overcoming the opposition. Murder of people in government or in the military has become a mundane occurrence. The religious wave passing over the Moslem world has reinforced the opposition of the Sunni majority to the Alawite minority ruling in Damascus. This complication is likely to bring Asad and several of the politicians associated with him to the decision that, in order to calm the atmosphere and to unite anew the hawkish groups, a foreign threat is necessary--a threat of war with Israel.

An additional factor likely to spur Asad to hostile action against Israel is his desire to break the ties between Egypt and Israel. Severing Egypt from a coalition with Israel on the one hand and fear of an Iraqi hegemony on the other are spurring thoughts in Syria on the need to destroy the peace process between Egypt and Israel before the ties between the two become irrevocably close. Hostile actions on the northern front will

place Egypt anew before a difficult choice: to remain with Israel or to be cut off almost completely from the Arab world.

Among the Syrians are those who apparently believe that after Egypt receives that half of the Sinai in which the important geographical demarcations are found, demands to stop the peace process may intensify, especially when it becomes clear that the autonomy talks have failed. If this projection does not eventuate, the Syrians think that Sadat's isolation will increase and the likelihood of his overthrow will grow with the justification that he has not proceeded to defend an Arab state locked in war with Israel.

There is an opinion that holds that Syria's true interest is finally to achieve a settlement with Israel--but a settlement from a position of strength. A settlement which will ensue after an additional military clash whose conclusion is at least a draw. The clash will require the U.S. to press the parties to political negotiations similar to those after the Yom Kippur war, especially if Egypt intervenes in favor of Damascus. In any case, disruption of the separate peace between Israel and Egypt is in Damascus' interest.

These are reasons "for" which are likely to find attentive ears in the Syrian elite but there are other reasons, principally military, which might deter Damascus from a military adventure. Despite the impressive progress in the Syrian army since the Yom Kippur war, which we will deal with below, the military leaders know that Israel is still militarily superior. They might compete with Israel in an optional war of attrition and in sabotage operations, but this could be a perilous game of roulette. There is no way of knowing how it will end. Israel might respond to a war of attrition very aggressively and drag the Syrian army in the Golan or in Syria into a comprehensive war and defeat it.

What may initially appear to be an enlightened Syrian move may finally be transformed into an Israeli trap. Clearly every Syrian military move which does not eventuate in victory will only exacerbate the internal problems and the pressure on the Alawite ruling group.

Going to war, even a war of attrition, requires full coordination with Iraq. Without Soviet support and without Iraqi coordination, Damascus is likely to expose itself to Israeli hostility. In contrast, exposure on the Iraqi side is a danger of a different order. In the last few years, Iraq's military strength has increased considerably. Iraq may, in the not-to-distant future decide to put an end to the ruling clique in Damascus.

A distinctly questionable matter is then Syria's capability to wage a war of attrition against Israel, to the point of all-out conflict. In the last few years, important structural changes have been made in the Syrian military organization. It would be advisable to analyze these carefully despite the accepted opinion of Israel's superior strength. By no means can we afford to minimize the stepped-up reorganization being effected in the Syrian forces.

The process began after the Yom Kippur war and received additional impetus after the Camp David Accord. The break with Egypt and the attendant feeling of being alone against Israel greatly spurred the Syrians in what they called the development of a capability whereby they could singlehandedly successfully oppose Israel. The goal was to alter the negative balance of forces vis-a-vis Israel. To achieve this goal, they were aided by funds allotted to them at the Baghdad conference.

A constant source of vexation for Syrians over the past years has been the absolute air superiority of the Israelis. This superiority is expressed in the quality of the Israeli pilots and, at least with regard to the fighter plane F 15 in Israeli hands. Nevertheless, Damascus does not appear overly concerned about this superiority. In my judgment, the Syrians concluded from the air battles with the Israeli air force in Lebanese airspace that their pressure finally caused an Israeli withdrawal.

Armored Forces

In terms of hardware, the Syrian air force has progressed substantially. In 1979, alone, it acquired MIG 23 attack planes and also MIG 25's. In addition, there are Sokho 22's and MIG 21 B's, which are considered a most advanced model. If we add to this the stunning increase in the number of surface-to-air missiles, including modern missiles of the SA 9 class which have arrived, we may assume that the Syrians have succeeded in closing many of the gaps in their anti-air defense. Nor should one ignore the constant and systematic increase in acquisition of surface-to-surface missiles of the SCAD and FRAG class which serve as a type of deterrent against Israeli bombing.

All this leads to the conclusion that the Israeli air threat will not necessarily prove a decisive factor in deterring the initiation of a war of attrition should the political reasons in favor of such a move persuade the Syrian elite. The Israeli air threat did not prevent the war in 1973 and one should not assume that it will stop Asad today, when he has added so many modern planes and pilots.

A different and more instructive development has taken place in the Syrian land army. Like the Jordanian army, the Syrian army is also engaged in a large reorganization but it appears that the pace of the Syrian reorganization is much faster because of their success in acquiring much more equipment from the Russians in a much shorter time. Two objectives stand out in the reorganization. One is to transform the Syrian army into an armored army. The heavy acquisition of tanks and armored personnel carriers indicate an intention to abolish most of the infantry divisions. In terms of the number of tanks in their possession, they could organize three or even four armored divisions. Sooner or later, an additional armored division will certainly be added to the Syrian forces and over time perhaps also a mechanized division.

A noteworthy addition to Syrian armor is the most modern tank, the T-72. The West does not have a cannon or anti-tank missile capable of penetrating its armor from intermediate battle ranges.

The second objective in the Syrian reorganization is to increase commando and special force units. The Syrian race for helicopters in the East and West in addition to the 50 French helicopters of the Gazelle class and to a contract negotiated in Paris for more helicopters is evidence of the attempt to strengthen the assault transport and of the aggressive intent of the Syrian planners. In the publications of the Institute for Strategic Studies they note that in the past year the Syrians had more than 10 commando units. New weaponry must be taken into account such as mobile cannons, modern Katyushas (B.M. 2), second generation modern anti-tank missiles and reconnaissance armor of the Bardam class.

Besides the two above mentioned goals, consideration must be given to the type of maneuvers in which the Syrian army is engaged and which has reached its peak with a final exercise by Syrian armor. Very little has been publicized about the character of these maneuvers, but it is evident they were conducted on a large scale and with armor. One of the problems of the Syrian army has been its division between Syria and Lebanon, but despite the hints of an intention to withdraw from Lebanon, I believe the objective is to remain permanently in part of Lebanon. This can be inferred from, among other things, the fortification and laying of basic foundations in Lebanon.

The Syrians will not surrender the option they have against Israel on the Lebanese border. At the most, they will withdraw from limited areas here and will reduce their forces in Lebanon.

The conclusion of this summary of the military chapter is: despite the general Israeli superiority, the Syrians have already developed sufficient power to let them conduct an effective war of attrition and to defend themselves against the Israel Defense Force (IDF) until they receive assistance from Iraq, Jordan and even the USSR.

The central question beyond all of these data is whether today Asad would take the risk of initiating a war of attrition. In my judgment, the probability of this at the present stage is very low. It is lower than the probability of another attempt at an adventure. This is in contrast to the accepted opinion. In all our contacts with the Syrians they have proven themselves to be extremely sober and loath to expose themselves to any dangers. But in all these evaluations one fact must be emphasized and that is the interest of the Soviet Union in effecting a flare-up in this area following her actions in Afghanistan. There is a possibility that at present the Soviet Union will try to calm everybody. It is quite possible that at present it will try to divert attention from its incursion into Afghanistan and the deployment of forces on the borders of Iran. This presents another focal point of tension on the Israeli-Syrian border.

We cannot conclude that Damascus will be agreeable to Russian proposals and pressures in an automatic fashion. But all of these considerations are premised on the notion that Israel will not give new cause to Syria to take an aggressive approach, for example by a renewal of IDF activities in Lebanon. In that case, the context will change and we should not be surprised if Syrian forces are deployed in forward positions in the Golan Heights or Iraq sends volunteer forces to the area. Palestinian terrorists in cooperation with Iranian groups may receive the green light to engage in operations against Israel by way of Lebanon and even through the Syrian border.

8995
CSO: 4805

NEED TO CONTINUE RESISTING ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS REITERATED

Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Jan 80 p 1

/Article: "Statement by AL-QUDS: Love of the Land"/

/Text/ Since its name was changed from Hebron to Khalil al-Rahman, in glorification of the grandfather of the prophets, the companion of God Abraham, on whom be peace--whom God adopted as his companion and who lived in Hebron as a man of forbearance--the people of the city have loved the land and clung to it, turning its stones into fertile ground from which rose trees of fruit, foremost among them the famous al-Khalili grapes, and the people of Hebron became masters at expressing their love and devotion to the land. They put up chains to protect the soil, they broke up hard stones and turned them into a soil closer to henna than to dirt, and they increased their love of the land because it was so small in area. Their numbers increased to the point where the land became too small to accommodate them and was no longer broad enough for their aspirations, but selling it was close to a forbidden act; no matter how hungry its owner might be, it was of little importance to him to sell anything except the land, which he was proud to have as a legacy from his grandfathers and fathers, and then for his sons.

When Point Four came to the country, to teach people how to preserve the soil, the experts from this organization came to Hebron. When they saw the efforts that had been made and the well-cultivated valley, they said "We came to teach you and here we are learning from you." It would not have been easy for the experts to give this testimony had it not been for the splendor of what they witnessed and touched.

The land, and what it produces, may be the main source of livelihood of the inhabitants and the sustenance of their lives. In addition, it is sacred land, most of it in trust to benevolent fields and the great mosque of the town--a mosque which draws travelers to it.

This beloved, sacred land has begun to moan and cry out under the tires of the tractors which are uprooting the pillars of its fertility and the trees

which the farmers have watered with their sweat and nourished with the sinews of their muscles.

A people with such love for their land, such exemplary adherence to their soil, and such pride in their efforts, can only say no to preserve this beloved land which the Israeli proponents of colonization wish to plant with fortified huts, establishing guns on it instead of apple trees, clusters of terebinth, sumac bushes and fine grapes.

In the place of every tree that is uprooted, a new tree will arise, bearing all the manifestations of our determination to persevere and to remain.

11887
CSO: 4802

RETURN TO COLD WAR CLIMATE DEPLORED

Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jan 80 pp 1, 7

/Article: "Statement by AL-QUDS: A Return to the Policy of Alliances"/

/Text/ In the fifties, especially in the era of President Eisenhower and his Secretary of State Dulles, American thinking was dominated by the policy of establishing military pacts aimed at containing the Soviet Union. There arose the Atlantic Pact in Europe, the Baghdad Pact in the Middle East and the Southeast Asia Treaty. In 1954 Dulles made a trip to the Arab area to persuade the countries there to participate in the Baghdad Pact, but he ran up against the position of the Egyptian leadership headed by the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir; the Egyptian media opened a strong offensive against this and other military pacts, so the Baghdad Pact came to an end, collapsing in Baghdad itself on 14 July 1958 as a consequence of the Iraqi revolution and the elimination of the policy of Nuri al-Sa'id, who had adopted this tendency vigorously. The Baghdad Pact's name was changed and it adopted the name of CENTO, that is, the Central Treaty pact, which comprised Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Britain, with the United States as an observer. Pakistan then pulled out in the wake of the Indo-Pakistani war and the pact's position of spectator concerning this war. Thus this pact collapsed, as did the Southeast Asia Treaty; only the Atlantic Pact remains.

Britain pulled out of the Arab Gulf, leaving a large void. The West, led by the United States, tried to fill this void by the wholesale supply of arms and material to the emperor of Iran, taking him as an ally to protect the security and safety of the gulf. It bet on a losing horse. The Iranian people brought the emperor down and, when he disappeared, so did the hopes and dreams of the West. The Iranian revolution proved that dependence on rulers imposed on their people is a weak, corrupt form of dependence.

Once again a void occurred in the strategic, sensitive area.

The West had hardly caught its breath and awakened to the deteriorated conditions when the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan occurred and the red army

came within 250 miles of the Strait of Hormoz which controls the maritime communications and through which 60 percent of the Arab oil supplying energy to the West and Japan passes.

Did the red army go into Afghanistan to stay, do you suppose, or was this a passing, temporary affair? Will the army soon go back where it came from? Is Afghanistan the end of the road or is it a first step to be followed by other steps toward the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean?

These mysterious riddles are going about in the minds of the planners of Western and international policy, though it is likely that the invasion of Afghanistan is only the prelude to other forward moves especially since the Soviet Union will need to import oil in increasing volumes from now on.

Thus the United States has returned to the policy of establishing pacts to contain the Soviet tide in this region, which is the most sensitive and important in the world.

Where are the Arabs in this new situation? The pacts will not succeed without them; one cannot build a containment wall without their cooperation and without using their territories.

The United States never took the Arabs seriously. When the Arabs threatened, the West smiled; when the Arabs took a serious decision, the West ridiculed. Now the West's need for the Arab world has become stronger than it was before. The Arab region is no longer just a source of energy--it has become a transitional power between a third world war and the stabilization of world peace. Will the Arabs make an effort to benefit from these new circumstances and refuse to yield to American pressure before their main cause, the Palestinian cause, is settled?

11887
CSO: 4802

ISRAEL

ABSORPTION OF ELECTRIC COMPANY CONDEMNED

Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Jan 80 p 1

/Article: "Statement by AL-QUDS: The Jerusalem Governorate Electric Company--a New Victim of Israeli Policy!"/

/Text/ The step Israel has taken in terminating the Arab Jerusalem Governorate Electric Company concession is only an extension of the policy Israel has followed since the declaration of the annexation of Arab Jerusalem on 28 June 1967 and the subsequent sequence of measures to obliterate the traces of the Arab presence and judaize the holy city.

It is the same policy which led to dissolution of the Jerusalem Trusteeship Council, transfer of the Education Department to Bethlehem and the appeals court to Ramallah, annexation of the Jerusalem schools to the municipality, imposition of Israeli curricula on our children, and the forcible separation of the villages around Jerusalem, with the result that some were attached to the Bethlehem area and some to the Ramallah area although these villages are sections of Arab Jerusalem and belong to it.

It is the same policy which rejects acknowledgment of the decrees of the court of Islamic law in Jerusalem or recognition of its Chamber of Commerce. It is the same policy which has called for application of Israeli laws to the inhabitants of the holy city and subjection of these inhabitants to various types of perverse taxes from which the Arab nation does not benefit.

It is the same policy which imposes Israeli Defense Force taxes and Israeli Defense Loans on Jerusalem Arabs who possess Arab and Jordanian citizenship. It is the same policy which keeps West Bank farm and industrial products from reaching Jerusalem unless they already have a permit and customs duties have been paid on them.

It is the same policy which considers Jericho oranges, Nablus soap and Hebron dates to be goods which are alien to Arab Jerusalem.

In our view, what prompted the Israeli minister of power to adopt his arbitrary decision is his fear that the company will be revived and regain its breath--not, as he has maintained, his fear that it will not be able to carry out its commitments. Even if the reasons with which he supports himself are real, he should have waited till the end of the concession before the company was transferred to the existing government with all its movable and immovable assets without compensation. However, he feared that when that day came the company would be more firmly based and deep-rooted, so that it would be difficult to approach it or touch it. He preferred to do away with it before it reached the level of full development.

The issue is far more serious than one of economic interests. Indeed, it is an issue which infringes upon the essence of our adherence to our sacred rights to the holy city. We view it at this level and on this order of significance. Recourse to the judiciary will not be our only means for protecting our rights, which have been exposed to ruin--indeed, we must adopt all other legitimate measures.

Israel, which talks about peace and the normalization of relations with Egypt, is creating reasons it does not need for impeding the progress of peace and embarrassing the Egyptian leaders before their people and the Arab peoples!

We do not expect that wisdom will govern and that Israel will draw back from this step. However, we are confident that we will not stop struggling to protect our beloved Arab institutions.

If the interests of consumers are the motive, then the minister of power must dissolve the Israeli National Company, which has failed to provide a town as big as Hebron with its electricity requirements.

If the interests of the Arab villages are the motive, then the Israeli minister of power must furnish us with statistics on the number of Arab villages in Galilee and the Triangle which still suffer from blackouts though more than 30 years have passed since these villages came under the Israeli National Company concession. But that is politics and playing with facts.

11587
CSO: 4802

JOINT STATEMENT BY ISLAMIC COALITION AND ARMENIANS

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Dec 79 p 3

[Article: "Joint Statement by 'Islamic Coalition' and Armenians: Violence Will Not Solve Lebanon's Problem; We Support Legitimacy And the Formation Of a Sound Army"]

[Text] The "Islamic Coalition" and a delegation of Armenian representatives stated that they believe in the necessity of supporting legitimacy in every sense of the word and of rejecting any attempt or tendency to violate it. They affirmed their support of "the formation of a sound Lebanese army on strong foundations, so that it may carry out its task of extending legitimate authority over all parts of Lebanon."

The statement was made after a meeting between an Armenian delegation, consisting of Member of Parliament Malkun Ablighatian, Mr Sulak Tatalian, Mr Wartakis Gharkarbatian and Dr Subbuhi Ufanian, with members of the Islamic Coalition, namely Former Premier Sa'ib Salam, Member of Parliament Jamil Kabbi, Dr Nasib al-Barbir, Mr 'Adnan al-Hakim, Mr Malik Salam, Mr Shafiq al-Wazzan, Mr Husayn Saj'an and Mr Muhammad al-Jarudi. At the end of the meeting, which took place at Dr al-Barbir's office, Former Premier Taqi al-Din al-Suhrawardi read the following statement:

"The members of the Islamic Coalition welcome the Armenian brothers, and express their appreciation of the Armenian fellow citizens' attitude and their dedication to the highest interests of Lebanon, particularly during the events to which Lebanon has been exposed these recent years. The Armenian delegation thanked the Islamic Coalition for arranging the meeting which is based on a sincere desire for friendship and cooperation between all members of the Lebanese ethnic groups and denominations.

"After consulting on the affairs of Lebanon as a whole, both parties agreed to issue the following statement:

"1. Violence cannot solve any problem in Lebanon. This is the opinion held by both parties since the beginning of the disturbances. Its validity has been proved during the past few years by Lebanon's bloody ordeal and tragedies, which led to nothing but a great deal of destruction and many innocent victims.

"2. Both parties, holding fast to the unity of Lebanon, territory and people alike, proclaim their belief in the necessity of supporting legitimacy in all its aspects and rejecting any attempt or tendency to violate it, particularly by force of arms, violence of any kind, or actions which are not in the interest of Lebanon nor of human rights. This is the belief of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people as expressed by all available means of expression to-date.

"3. Both parties confirm their support of the formation of a sound Lebanese army on strong foundations, so that it may carry out its task of extending legitimate authority over all parts of Lebanon and leading the way to the restoration of peace and stability to every part of the country. The vast silent majority would then be able to express its true feelings and its desire to see Lebanon continue to be an independent, united nation where freedom, equality and love between all its citizens and denominations prevail.

"4. The conferees believe that Lebanon can exist only on the basis of love, friendship, open-mindedness and brotherly cooperation between all its citizens and denominations. Based on this belief, both parties proclaim their desire to continue their cooperation to attain their common objectives, and to strive to pull Lebanon out of its ordeal onto a dignified and peaceful life, as desired by the entire population, through open-mindedness, mutual understanding and national concord. Lebanon would thereby once again play its proper role within the Arab family of nations as well as in the vast international domain."

2693
CSO: 4802

SECURITY, POLICE OFFICERS APPOINTED TO MILITARY COURT OF CASSATION

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Jan 80 p 6

[Article: Officers of Security Forces Appointed to Staffs of Military Courts]

[Text] The Office of Director General of Internal Security Forces and the Office of Director General of Public Security issued decisions yesterday naming the senior officers and commissioners who have been appointed advisers to the staffs of the Military Court of Cassation and the Military Court. The appointments are as follows:

1. To the permanent staff of the Military Court of Cassation: Lt Col George Najim and Lt Col Yusuf Shihadah from the Internal Security Forces, and Commissioners Nabil Khayr Allah and Sami Abu al-Hasan from Public Security.

To the provisional staff: Col George Abu Shaqra and Staff Lt Col Basim al-Qadiri from the Internal Security Forces, and Commissioner Muhammad Faqih from Public Security.

2. To the permanent staff of the military court: Lt Col Munir Ma'luli and Maj Mahdi al-Haj Hasan from Internal Security, and Commissioners Makhayil Ramuz and Fu'ad 'Uwaydat from Public Security.

To the First Provisional Staff: Maj Sami Sayqali and Cap Fayiz Rahal from Internal Security, and Commissioners Jan Makhayil and Munir Tu'mah from Public Security.

To the Second Provisional Staff: Maj 'Abd-al-Karim Ghandur and Cap Antoine Latif from Public Security.

The decisions stipulate that these officers and commissioners are to take the legal oath of office stipulated in Article Fifteen of the Military Justice Code in front of Judge George Malat, the chairman of the Military Court of Cassation.

ARMY, SECURITY OFFICERS PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Jan 80 p 4

[Report: "Six Decrees Issued to Promote Army and Security Officers: Other Officers Placed on Promotions Roster"]

[Excerpts] Decrees number 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2600 and 2601 were issued yesterday, promoting officers in the army and in the interior security forces to higher ranks. It is observed that the decrees that pertained to the promotions of interior security forces were dated 31/12/1979 and that the two decrees that were related to the promotion of army officers were dated 1/1/1980.

Security Forces Promotion

Decree Number 2566 pertains to the placement of officers of the interior security forces on the promotions roster. The text of this decree follows:

"Article One: Provisional brigadier generals Mishal Abu Khalil, Yusuf Sallum, Sulayman 'Ayyash and Faysal Farahat are to be placed on the promotions roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to brigadier generals.

"Article Two: This decree is to be published and reported as necessary."

Decree Number 2567 pertains to the promotion of officers of the interior security forces. This is its text:

"Article One: Provisional brigadier generals Mishal Abu Khalil, Yusuf Sallum, Sulayman 'Ayyash and Faysal Farahat are to be promoted to brigadier generals as of 1/1/1980.

"Article Two: This decree is to be published and reported as necessary."

Decree Number 2568 pertains to the placement of officers of the interior security forces on the promotions roster for 1980. The decree states:

"Article One: The names of the following officers as to be placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980:

- A. To the rank of provisional colonel, lieutenant colonels Muhammad Qubrusli, Mustafa Nasir, Basim al-Qadiri and George Asmar.
- B. To the rank of provisional lieutenant colonel, majors Rafiq al-Hasan, Fayruz al-Yazji, As'ad Dahir, Mahmud Fawwaz, Muhammad Samir Sha'rani, Rafiq al-Faghali and Mahdi al-Haj Hasan.
- C. To the rank of major, provisional majors George Khuri, Matanius 'Isa, Bahzad al-Malla, Anis Rashid, Salih al-Rifa'i and Iskandar Shalafun.
- D. To the rank of provisional major, captains Yusuf Salim, Salim Malhamah, Nasir al-Rahban, Tal'at al-Ayyubi, Hasan Dakrub, Samir Karam, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Satir, Isma'il al-Hasan, Salim Mahmud, Muhammad Murad, As'ad al-Hilu, Ra'if Zaydan, Iskandar 'Ajaqah, Ramiz 'Ajaqah, Ramiz Mahfuz, 'Adnan al-Ghatmi, George Hajjar and Ghazi Faraj.
- E. To the rank of captain, provisional captains Bardalayan Tarabiyyah, Joseph Dahir and Salim Safa.
- F. To the rank of provisional captain, first lieutenants Hasan Tarad, Antoine Khuri, Malik 'Abd-al-Khalil, Zakhiya Ayyub, Joseph 'Abbud, Walid al-Hashim, Tawfiq Murad, 'Abd-al-Rahman Janun, Tony Safi, Jabbur Nufal, Samir Subuh, Sulayman Saliba, Naji al-Hadi, Sa'id 'Id, Muhammad al-Husayn and George al-Bustani."

"Article Two: The names of the following officers are to be placed on Promotions Roster No 2 for 1980:

- A. To the rank of lieutenant colonel, provisional lieutenant colonels Butrus Nakhlah, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Maqdad and Munir Ma'luli. Also to the rank of lieutenant colonel, majors Rafiq al-Hasan and As'ad Dahir who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to the rank of provisional lieutenant colonels in accordance with Paragraph B of Article One of this decree.
- B. To the rank of major, provisional majors Fathi al-Hasan, Muhammad al-Ayyubi, Faruq al-Haj, Muhammad Dahir, 'Adnan Ghaliyah and Fawzi Sam'an. Also to the rank of major, captains Yusuf Salim, Salim Malhamah and Nasir al-Rahban who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to the rank of provisional majors, in accordance with Paragraph D of Article One of this decree.
- C. To the rank of captain, provisional captains Malik al-Hasan, Ja'far Yazbak, Fayiz Sayf, Munir al-Mawsawi, Rafiq al-Haddad, Ziyad 'Urabi, Nadim Raysha, Nabil Ba'albaki, Rashid Tu'mah, Walid Malak and Fadi Madi. Also to the rank of captain, first lieutenants Hasan Tarad, Antoine Khuri, Malik 'Abd-al-Khalil, Zakhiya Ayyub, Joseph 'Abbud, Walid al-Hashim, Tawfiq Murad, 'Abd-al-Rahman Janun, Tony Safi and Jabbur Nufal who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to the rank of provisional captains in accordance with Paragraph F of Article One of this decree."

"Article Three: The names of the following officers are to be placed on [promotion] Roster No 3 for 1980:

- A. To the rank of colonel, provisional colonel Wahib 'Abd-al-Samad. Also to the rank of colonel, lieutenant colonels Muhammad Qubrusli, Mustafa Nasir, Basim al-Qadiri and George Asmar who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to provisional colonels in accordance with Paragraph A of Article One of this decree.
- B. To provisional colonels, lieutenant colonels Mishal Shababi and Ramiz Kinj.
- C. To the rank of lieutenant colonel, majors Mahmud Fawwaz, Muhammad Samir Sha'rani, Rafiq al-Faghali and Mahdi al-Haj Hasan who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to the rank of provisional lieutenant colonels in accordance with Paragraph B of Article One of this decree.
- D. To the rank of provisional lieutenant colonel, majors 'Abd-al-Karim Ghandur, 'Ali 'Ashur, Sharif al-Haj, 'Isam Abu Zaki, Ahmad Sami Manqarah and Makhayil Sam'an.
- E. To the rank of major, captains Tal'at al-Ayyubi Hasan Dakrub, Samir Karam, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Satir, Isma'il al-Hasan, Salim Mahmud, Muhammad Murad, As'ad al-Hilu, Ra'if Zaydan and Iskandar 'Ajaqah who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to the rank of provisional major in accordance with Paragraph D of Article One of this decree.
- F. To the rank of captain, first lieutenants Samir Subuh, Sulayman Saliba, Naji al-Hadi, Sa'id 'Id, Muhammad al-Husayni and George al-Bustani who were placed on Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 for promotion to the rank of provisional captain in accordance with Paragraph F of Article One of this decree.
- G. To the rank of provisional captain, lieutenants Sami Zawad, Hafiz al-Hawat, Jirji al-Naddaf, 'Ali Makkah, Walid Qulaylat, Samir Rahmah, Mishal Karam and Faysal Murad.

"Article Four: This decree is to be published and reported as necessary."

Decree Number 2569 pertains to the promotion of officers in the interior security forces. The decree states:

"Article One: The officers of the interior security forces whose names are mentioned below in Promotions Roster No 1 for 1980 are to be promoted as of 1/1/1980 in accordance with Article One of Decree No 2568 dated 31/12/1979:

- A. To the rank of provisional colonel, lieutenant colonels Muhammad Qubrusli, Mustafa Nasir, Basim al-Qadiri and George Asmar.

B. To the rank of provisional lieutenant colonel, majors Rafiq al-Hasan, Fayruz al-Yaziji, As'ad Dahir, Mahmud Fawwaz, Muhammad Samir Sha'rani, Rafiq al-Faghali and Mahdi al-Haj Hasan.

C. To the rank of major, provisional majors George Khuri, Mataniyus 'Isa, Bahazard al-Malla, Anis Rashid, Salih al-Rifa'i and Iskandar Shalafun.

D. To the rank of provisional major, captains Yusuf Salim, Salim Malhamah, Nasir al-Rahban, Tal'at al-Ayyubi, Hasan Dakrub, Samir Karam, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Satir, Isma'il al-Hasan, Salim Mahmud, Muhammad Murad, As'ad al-Hilu, Ra'if Zaydan, Iskandar 'Ajaqah, Ramiz Mahfuz, 'Adnan al-Ghatami, George Hajjar and Ghazi Faraj.

E. To the rank of captain, provisional captains Bardalayan Tarabiyyah, Joseph Dahir and Salim Safa.

F. To the rank of provisional captain, first lieutenants Hasan Tarad, Antoine Khuri, Malik 'Abd-al-Khalil, Zakhiya Ayyub, Joseph 'Abbud, Walid al-Hashim, Tawfiq Murad, 'Abd-al-Rahman Janun, Tony Safi, Jabur Nufal, Samir Subuh, Sulayman Saliba, Naji al-Hadi, Sa'id 'Id, Muhammad al-Husayni and George al-Bustani."

"Article Two: This decree is to be published and reported as necessary."

Army Promotions

Decree Number 2600 pertains to the promotion of a general officer to a higher rank. This is its text:

"Article One: Staff Brig Gen Ahmad 'Uthman al-Haj is to be promoted to Staff Major General as of the first of January 1980.

"Article Two: This decree is to be published, and it is to be reported as necessary."

Decree Number 2601 pertains to the promotion of officers in the army to higher ranks. The decree states:

"Article One: The officers whose names are below are to be promoted to a higher rank as of the first of January 1980:

"To the rank of captain, the following first lieutenants: Taniyus Faris (administrative), Joseph Karam, Lewis Iskandar, Ayyad Qaraquti, Ghazi Ghattas, Labib al-Laqis, Ilyas Dahir, Samir Khuri, Mufid Abu 'Atmah (pharmacist), Ilyas Suwayd, Tariq Sakariyah, 'Adnan al-Hamsi, Ghazi 'Id, Samir Dib (administrative), Farid Daghir, George Bahlaq (dentist), Yahya al-Qa'i (dentist), Muhammad 'Atawi, Farid Sha'nayn, Hamid Asbar, Eduwar Sa'adah, Samir Khuri, Ghassan Shamas (engineer), Fu'ad al-Muli (engineer), Ghazi Tanuri (physician), Hanni al-Khatib (physician), Ilyas al-Jammal (engineer), Adib Abu Shaqra (administrative), Joseph Ramya, Zakariyya Jum'ah,

'Ali al-Asbar, Hafiz Na'um, Anwar al-Ba'ini, 'Atif 'Abbud, Jarir Madur,
Mahir Safiy al-Din, Muhammad Shahbaz, Mishal Halit, Jan al-Hamsi, Hafiz
al-Hajjar (engineer), Amin Hatit, Sami Abu Samra, Sa'id al-Jaradi,
Bassam al-Khuri, Ahmad 'Anisi (engineer), Joseph Abyad, George Abu Kharroub,
'Isam al-Haddad, Edmond Nasr Allah, 'Abdalilah Khuri, Sulayman Abu Rizq,
Tallal Sham'un, Bayaru Sulayman, Hasan Muhsin, Labib 'Uwaydat, 'Ali
Sa'id Harb, Na'im Farah, Muhammad 'Uthman, Marun Nimr, Nasuh Mur'ib Bahij
Abu Shaqra, Tanus Mu'awwad, Fayiz Karam, Samir Sansil, 'Isam Dahruj,
Fayiz 'Azar, Tallal Fawwaz, Sa'id Mumtaz, Salim Kan'an, Nasir Kamal al-Din
and Nasir al-Zahiri."

"Article Two: This decree is to be published and reported as necessary."

8592

CSO: 4802

EASTERN ORTHODOX SYNOD MEETS IN DAMASCUS

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Dec 79 p 4

[Article: Activities of the Holy Synod of the [Eastern] Orthodox Church of Antioch (Antakiyah). "We Lovingly and Knowingly Coexist with Non-Orthodox Christians, and We Unflinchingly and Unerringly Strive For Unity"]

[Text] The secretariat of the Holy Synod of the [Eastern] Orthodox Church of Antioch yesterday released a statement on the activities of the first regular session convened by the synod in the lifetime of Patriarch Ignatius IV to deal with the situation of the dioceses and affairs appurtenant to theological education, schools, public information, pastoral supervision, participation in masses of other churches, election of bishops and ecumenical relations.

The text of the statement follows:

The Holy Synod of the [Eastern] Orthodox Church of Antioch held its regular session at the patriarchate in Damascus from 13 to 22 November 1979, and that included 12 meetings.

The session took place at the patriarchate under the chairmanship of His Beatitude Ignatius IV and in the presence of Their Eminences Malatius (Argentina), Ignatius (Brazil), Basilius (Hawran), Asbiridun (Zahlah), Athanasius (Hamah), Constantine (Baghdad), Basilius (Hims), Georgius (Jubayl and al-Batrūn), and Elias (Aleppo).

After invoking the Holy Ghost, His Beatitude spoke about the spirit "which called us to meet here in order to scrutinize the glory of God. I hope that we may always be united and have the same opinion, and that we may be the expression of the unity of the Holy Ghost, numerous as its aspects may be. We are what we are by the grace of God." He subsequently spoke about the spirit of communion and the necessity of obeying all the institutions of this communion, which is by the grace of God. He called for a return to the sacraments with their traditional rank and prestige, "since in them is the link between the world and God."

The members of the synod subsequently examined theoretical and practical matters, and the spirit of pastoral care was the main characteristic of this session.

1. Affairs of the Dioceses

a) His Beatitude reviewed the organization of the dioceses of Damascus, in which we have 10 priests for 250,000 Orthodox faithful. "We divided the city into 10 sections," His Beatitude said, "and assigned a priest to each one. We assigned a stipend for each priest, taking into consideration his family status and years of service, as well as the legal annual increase. Funds are in the care of the priest, and all contributions for services are deposited in these funds. The priest currently keeps no less than 550 Syrian Liras for himself, and some priests keep more than 1,000 Syrian Liras."

The direction outlined by the patriarch to the whole see was expressed in his words: "we do not want the servant of the Word of God to remain in an unacceptable material condition." His Beatitude then spoke about the distribution of the New Testament in the churches.

b) Non-diocesan matters were brought up. The spread of the Orthodox faith east of Aleppo to the Euphrates was reviewed, and was assigned to Aleppo. The situation of the city of Antakiyah and its vicinity was also reviewed. There are many faithful in this area, and they are in urgent need of more pastoral care. The various dioceses volunteered to support the Orthodox community there in every possible way. The Synod also examined the problem of Hawran, thousands of whose people have left for the cities. It was decided to establish an endowment in favor of the diocese of Hawran by re-assigning landed properties from other dioceses.

2. Theological Education and Schools

The training of priests was also discussed, and it was decided--in addition to the sacerdotal training provided at the seminary of al-Balmand [in Lebanon]--to prepare correspondence courses. The importance of training seminars in every diocese was stressed. The pastoral professor of theology of Saint John the Damascene Institute in al-Balmand will take care of ensuring the holding of such seminars.

The synod subsequently examined the progress of the institute of theology during the past year and the beginning of its second year following the interruption caused by war. His Eminence Metropolitan George (Khadir) submitted an itemized report on the institute, the monastery and the secondary school.

The report dealt at length with the organic connection between spiritual education in the secondary school and theological studies. After explaining the tremendous progress of the secondary school of al-Balmand (1,100 students, 56 teachers, educational methods, ethical education, budget amounting to about 1 million [Lebanese] liras, the report reviewed the situation of the institute from every angle. It was decided to establish a board of trustees for the institute and another board, whose task will be restricted to expansion.

In addition to recommendations concerning the normal life of the institute (programs, financial matters), it was specifically stressed that the priest is not merely concerned with divine service, but is also the depositary of Christian teachings. It was also stressed that "we need a scientific approach to save our legacy from oblivion. Meeting our evangelistic responsibilities is the source of our life and survival." The education committee actually started examination of the matter and is getting ready to publish its findings.

In addition to that, His Eminence Metropolitan Elias (Qurban) submitted a report on religious education (Sunday schools) in the Tripoli diocese as an example. Attention was given to educational coordination in the see with reference to juveniles and young men, as well as religious schools, whose progress is remarkable in northern Lebanon according to available reports.

3. Information and Apostolic Care

It has become obvious to us that we can increasingly use the information media. The matter of keeping in touch with official information media in Lebanon was discussed. We actually participate in the broadcasting program, "Voice of the Gospel," which comes from Cyprus and is directed by the Council of Churches of the Middle East.

With reference to pastoral care, generally speaking, a report was submitted by His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine (Baghdad), who was elected to be in charge of the pastoral care committee. The principal items concerning this matter include the revision and reprinting of liturgical books. The patriarchate actually has been working on this matter for some time. The Society for Love and Peace [Jam'iyat al-Mahabbah wa al-Salam] was also encouraged to continue its publication of liturgical books for laymen under a format taking feasts and holidays into consideration.

4. Participation in masses of Other Churches

His Eminence Asbiridun (Zahlah) spoke about the remarkable cooperation existing in his dioceses between the churches, particularly in the field of religious education and programs. He pointed out that, since he has been in charge of the diocese, nobody from his flock reportedly left his church and joined another church. Their Eminences Ashbiridun and Georgius (Jubayl and al-Batrun) both spoke about their joint visit, as delegates, to the Holy Synod of the Greek (Melkite) Catholic Church; the extremely friendly welcome they received; the warm reception given by the fathers of the Synod to the speech of the Orthodox delegation, which dwelt on the legacy of the Eastern Orthodox Church, its objective of Eastern Orthodox unity, and its policy of refraining from encroaching on other churches, since relations between the traditional churches are relations between equals, aiming at a rapprochement.

Metropolitan Georgius pointed out that official Catholic discipline still prohibits a Catholic from receiving communion in any church to which he does not belong. The Vatican II Council allows it in very exceptional

cases, provided it is also permitted by the Orthodox Church. It seems that Catholics do it spontaneously, without any permission from either the Catholic or Orthodox church. There was obvious mutual understanding among the bishops that the matter of participation in church services of other denominations is still untimely, owing to ideological differences which have not been overcome to date.

The Synod observed that both migration and social commingling have created new situations, the solution of which requires a meeting at the level of patriarchs and bishops. Mixed marriages are an example of such situations.

We personally raise no barricade in front of anybody. We may be flexible or firm on the basis of principles. We study the movement and activity of non-Orthodox Christians. We lovingly and knowingly coexist with them, unflinchingly and unerringly striving for unity. We adhere to the Orthodox identity with open minds. We are patient with the unruly Orthodox brother, so that he may find his way back to good sense and discernment.

5. Election of Bishops

The synod elected Archimandrite Elias, Awdah as deputy patriarch and bishop of Qarrah, Archimandrite Athanasius Saliba as bishop of Bayrud, and Archimandrite Yuhanna Mansur as Metropolitan of Latakia.

The question of the creation of a patriarchal legation in Chile was discussed. A layman was nominated for the post. He is an emigre who is religiously very active, has a sound theological education, and is the dean of a college at the University of Santiago. After a discussion from the historic and canonical point of view, Their Eminences unanimously agreed that there should be no discussion about the election of the above-mentioned person as a bishop, unless he enters the clerical life.

6. Ecumenical Relations

After discussing the organization of ecumenical activities and the constitution of committees, each one of which would handle a particular line of such activities and relations with other churches, it was agreed that His Beatitude should coordinate this matter. The Synod subsequently elected His Eminence Metropolitan Georgius (Khadir) as delegate of the Eastern Orthodox See to the World Orthodox Committee for the dialogue with the Catholic Church.

Before the end of the last meeting of the first regular session held in the lifetime of His Beatitude Ignatius IV, the latter was thanked by His Eminence Malatius (Argentina), oldest metropolitan present, who stood up and said: "I thank you personally and in the name of my brothers, members of the Eastern Orthodox Synod. I praise you for your enduring patience, your high synodal spirit and a very obvious democratic spirit. Every brother will take back with him enduring good memories of these wonderful meetings."

"We are all sinners," His Beatitude replied, "and we all act on the strength of God's grace. We came here with a spirit of love, and we now leave, enjoying our love for each other more than ever before. I thank you for all the patience, cooperation and love which you have shown, and I know that all the words of praise which were addressed to me actually apply to every one of you. I thank God, in whose name we began our meeting here, and in whose name we conclude it."

2693
CSO: 4802

SPECIAL REPORT ON ECONOMY CONCLUDED

Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 16 Feb 80 pp 3-6

[Text] Housing: In March 1977 residential construction in Beirut picked up substantially after the clashes of 1976 and 1975. Despite the troubled security situation the housing sector recovered significantly. With renewed clashes in 1978 housing construction has probably faltered to nil. In 1977, 108 building licences were granted covering a total area 1.01 million square metres.

The housing sector was definitely most severely affected by the 1975 and 1976 War and the clashes of 1978. Today there are several factors that will definitely hamper any fast recovery in this sector. These are:

- The mounting prices of land and the high cost of construction material.
- The emigration of construction workers both skilled and unskilled.
- Restrictions imposed on bank credit to residential construction and land acquisition to curb real estate speculation which has fuelled the market and increased prices.
- The recurrent deterioration in the security situation.

It has been noticed that construction activity in the rural areas was better than in Beirut. This was the result of the following factors:
a) The war has forced several families to head to their native villages for security where they settled and built their dwellings.
b) Some have alternatively headed to other areas that they thought more secure than the capital where they settled and set up their permanent residence.

Agriculture: Among agricultural exports fruit exports make the largest portion, namely exports of apples and citrus fruits. In the first half of 1979, 157,087 tonnes of apples and citrus fruits were exported. These were 21,811 tonnes of apples and while the rest was citrus and other fruits. Apple exports between the beginning of the 1978 season and end of June 1979 reached 58,136 tonnes.

Animal production and cattle rearing recovered slowly in the post war period since most farms in the Bekaa, particularly poultry farms were still suffering from the heavy damage sustained during the two-year war. Recent estimates have shown, however, that poultry production had recovered 90 percent of its pre-war level and this despite the destruction of various small poultry farms that in 1977 were unable to re-start production.

Grain crops in rainfed landlots (22,000 out of 300,000 hectares) which had risen in 1976 dropped in 1977 and 1978 to its 1975 level as a result of the rise in the price of fertilisers and labour costs. Also in 1977 and 1978 the government encouraged the importation of grain which depressed the prices of local crops and therefore the market value of main grain crops.

There was a marked increase in investment in irrigated agricultural landlots in the Bekaa and along the coast. A significant increase in crops in coastal areas was registered and was principally the result of better security conditions and the availability of agricultural labour.

Trade: Among the most direct effects of the two-year war in the internal trade sector was the decentralisation and diversification of the market in view of the artificial barriers between communities. The relative rigidities created that inhibited the smooth flow of merchandise was obviously reflected in an increase in prices that was unprecedented.

The main reasons behind the price rise, however, were the following:
a) a disturbed security situation, the closure of the port of Beirut,
b) reduced imports and a sharp reduction in competition, c) world inflation and disturbed supply demand conditions.

Furthermore, several factors have been responsible for the higher priced products. They included the higher costs of shop rents and the shrinking local market.

In foreign trade Lebanese traders have succeeded in maintaining remarkable flexibility in coping with the developments in 1978 as in the War years 1975 and 1976. This flexibility has alleviated much of the adverse incidence of the war and the closure of the Beirut Port on export trade.

First estimates indicate that there was a trade deficit of LL 3.1 billion in 1978 while the balance of payments surplus, largely due to the inflow of remittances from emigrant workers in the Gulf and various locations was LL 900 million. The estimate is perhaps exaggerated but at any even: it did not fall below the surplus registered in 1977 (LL 600 million).

Remittances from Lebanese working abroad were estimated at LL 3.5 billion and have obviously contributed to the increase in Lebanon's foreign service holdings.

Transport and Communications: The Beirut International Airport registered a drop in the first half of 1979 compared to the corresponding period of 1978. The drop was registered in passenger traffic, incoming, outbound and transit passengers. The number of landings and take-offs in the period under study (first half of 1979) excluding March reached 11,282 flights compared with 11,638 flights for the corresponding period of 1978, a 3 percent drop.

The number of passengers, however, was 353,855 in the first half of last year (excluding March) compared with 271,850 in the corresponding period of 1978, a 7 percent drop.

Arriving passengers in the period covered were 249,849 compared with 263,964 passengers in the corresponding period of 1978, a 6 percent drop. Transit passengers reached 42,638 in the first half of last year compared with 54,586 passengers in the corresponding period of 1978, a 28 percent decline.

The Beirut Port: During the war years and after illegal ports mushroomed along the Lebanese coast to replace the Beirut Port which traditionally handles most of the country's exports and transit trade activity as well as being the haven for most imports.

In the first three quarters of 1979, 807 vessels docked at the Beirut Port compared with 1,413 in the corresponding period of 1978, a 43 percent drop. Cargo unloaded and loaded at the Port in the first five months of 1979 reached 825,000 tonnes compared with 1,105,000 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1978, a 34 percent drop.

The Tripoli port resumed operation after the war and even during the war was a safe haven for vessels that evaded using the Beirut Port. In August 1979 the Tripoli Port export activity rose. This was concluded from an increase in the value of exports granted certificates of origin from the Tripoli Chambre of Commerce. The increase was mainly the result of a thriving re-export of wood business and higher exports of cement.

The value of exports granted certificates by the Tripoli Chambre reached LL 494 million of which LL 115 million were re-exports. The Sidon port also contributed largely to the city's municipality revenue as well as to the state share of the revenues while the Port of Jounieh was moderately active and operations slowed down in it with the reactivation of the Beirut Port.

Railway transport during the war and to the present is nonexistent save for trains carrying fuel oil for the thermal power stations in Zouk and Jieh. There are plans to develop and upgrade the railway sector but these await the launching of the overall reconstruction and development plan.

Real Estate: Real estate is traditionally an area of investment, in real assets, but the condition of the various economic sectors during the two year war and after rendered real estate the area for speculation. Individuals and establishments who had excessive liquidity found a most rewarding and guaranteed form of investment in real estate.

Real estate development probably profited from the destruction of the downtown commercial sector of the capital. This led to the development of various commercial centers elsewhere, pushing real estate prices still higher. In the capital still real estate prices soared and only came to a halt when the Central Bank stepped in and forced a freeze on all credit for real estate acquisition and speculation.

Prices of real estate in some areas were threefold their initial value while at most all prices rose 100 percent. The real estate registered revealed that the amounts circulating in the real estate market were LL 2.5 billion.

Tourism: The tourism sector had since 1964 been a very active sector of the economy with a significant contribution to the national income. In the 1975-76 war, however, tourism was the first sector to suffer. Battles became known after the capital's most luxurious hotels. With the restoration of relative calm to Lebanon in 1977 the tourism sector started slow recovery.

During the war some 50 hotels ceased operation and the total number dropped to 55 in 1977 and 52 in 1978. After tourist revenues dropped to nil in 1976 they recovered slightly reaching LL 200 million in 1977 compared with LL 976 million in 1974.

CSO: 4820

LEBANON

BRIEFS

THREE LOAN APPLICATIONS AT LL 39.5 MILLION--Three loan applications of a total value of LL 39.5 million were submitted to the Lebanese Social Security Administration last week, according to the Beirut daily AL NAHAR. The daily said the loans requested were for the Makassed religious welfare institutions, the Social Service Association of the Shiite community, and a private hospital. The first applicant has requested LL 25 million for the expansion of its technical training center, while the Shiite service institution has requested LL 10 million for similar expenditure. The third applicant was the Trad hospital. It requested LL 4.5 million for maintenance work and new construction at the hospital. [Text] [Beirut THE ARAB WORLD WEEKLY in English 23 Feb 80 p 14]

CSO: 4820

LIBYA

NEW PATROL BOATS JOIN NAVY

Valleta THE JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 23 Feb 80 p 6

[Text] The patrol boat "Wadi Maragh" has joined the Libyan Arab naval fleet.

The new patrol boat is one of the most advanced combat vessels of its kind. It is equipped with rockets, guns, anti-submarine weapons and advanced electronic equipment.

The Libyan Arab crew who delivered the patrol vessel have been fully trained and are now ready to join other naval personnel for the defence of the Jamahiriya shores and the grand al-Fateh revolution's achievements, said a spokesman for the Navy.

Present at the reception of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Brigadier Abu Bakr Younis Jaber, the Commander of the Popular Resistance Major Khaweildi Himeidi and the Commander and Officers of the Naval Forces.

CSO: 4802

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

WARNING TO IMPERIALISTS IN RED SEA AREA

Aden 14 OCTOBER in Arabic 20 Dec 79 p 2

[Editorial by Mansur Ha'il: "Who Is Threatening the Security of the Red Sea?"]

[Text] The development of events in the Red Sea is generating much apprehension these days. It has become a principal subject occupying a position of prominence in London and U.S. newspapers in particular and in western newspapers in general. The matter is not confined to [efforts by] western circles to provoke, instigate and force matters in the direction of reassuring the security and stability of the nations of the Red Sea region. The reactionary circles in the same region are raising their voices and singing the same tune. They are creating an uproar, claiming that they are concerned about the security of the Red Sea which is being threatened by the Red Peril.

The truth is that these reactionaries fear the imminent awakening of the nations that are still suffering under the burden of client regimes. They fear the flaming tide of the Iranian Revolution whose fiery breezes are scorching everything in the area.

Accordingly, the reactionary circles followed by the imperialist circles are weaving comprehensive plans against the Iranian Revolution, against Ethiopia's revolution and against the revolution of Democratic Yemen. They are doing so in spite of the disparate conditions [that distinguish] each one of the aforementioned revolutions. When the political observer who has been following current events concerning the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region investigates these conditions, he will realize that the contrived uproar is nothing but the work of the United States and its agents.

Many adjectives--"the moderates" is one of them--are being used to describe the reactionary supporters who are advocating that the doors be opened wide to the United States so it can pick its quarrels in the area. They are sparing no effort in working to pave the way for the United States to come into the area with its military corps to protect it. They are justifying these brazen positions they are advocating by making up and by repeating their old, new stories about the imminent Soviet threat.

In the context of this trend which is hostile to the nations of the region and to everything new in it, the reactionary forces are sowing unrest and dissension against the Ethiopian Revolution. They are using all their capabilities to escalate the situation there so as to exhaust the resources of the Ethiopian Revolution.

It is known that the critical conditions which the reactionary regimes are experiencing, and especially those that have been in existence for a long time, have revealed [the existence of] a broad and a far-reaching popular uprising which is threatening their survival and forcing them to cling to illusions and to accuse foreign forces of "sabotage" and "sedition."

For the purpose of ensuring their illegitimate survival, the client circles are not hesitating to advocate the establishment of alliances and blocs in the Red Sea region, disregarding thereby the will of nations that are resisting the United States and its policy and are opposing any form of its existence.

When Qabus proclaimed his plan regarding what is called Gulf security, he was no more than a small scale, blatant example of the reactionary forces. His plan failed because it would have involved the major reactionary powers and it would have revealed the truth about them. The competition for leadership and the love of control that reactionary forces have did also play a role in scuttling this plan that gained no success under the leadership of Qabus.

The framework of alliances and blocs which the imperialist forces are advocating and which the reactionary forces in the area are trying to prepare for is far-reaching and includes the Red Sea region, the Horn of Africa and the Gulf. One of the western newspapers referred to this matter recently under the title, "The Red Sea: How Can It Be Turned Into A Neutral Region?" The British publication, MIDDLE EAST, mentioned frail details about Soviet and Cuban threats that are stationed in Ethiopia and in Aden.

Were it not for imperialist and reactionary activities, the Red Sea would still be a neutral region. How is it then that those imperialists and reactionaries want to be neutral? [Will that be accomplished] by establishing military bases, concentrations of gendarmes and military corps?

This would be danger incarnate. It is this only that would make the Red Sea region a non-neutral region; it would instead make it a very tense region threatening the security and stability of nations.

The position of Democratic Yemen and Socialist Ethiopia is clear and is known even to the western countries themselves.

At the conclusion of Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam's visit to Democratic Yemen a joint communique was issued that explained this position in specific terms.

The communique stated that Democratic Yemen and Ethiopia condemned "the dirty activities of imperialist and reactionary forces in the Red Sea region which seek to establish economic and military control over the region and to encourage wars." The two parties condemned especially the imperialist and reactionary maneuvers that were being carried out under the guise of what is called Red Sea security and Gulf security. This action constitutes interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region. The two parties called upon all countries to commit themselves firmly to the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and to honor the position of the Red Sea as a region of peace.

8592

CSO: 4802

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

ROOTS OF SOCIAL MALAISE STUDIED

Aden 14 OCTOBER in Arabic 30 Dec 79 p 2

[Article by Fatin Muhammad: "Idle Hours of Leisure Constitute One of Principal Reasons Behind Many Evil Phenomena and Social Maladies; What Is the Alternative?"]

[Text] There is no doubt that our country did inherit various social maladies from the age of colonialist and feudal control. In spite of the remedies that our new life after the revolution did offer to get rid of these diseases, several of them are regrettably still widespread among the members of our society and especially among young people.

There is also no doubt that one of the principal reasons why these maladies are widespread is the existence of daily hours of idleness from which the individual is suffering. After the toil of daily work a person needs an opportunity to rest physically and mentally so as to renew his energy so he can offer more and better [service].

Idle leisure--and some psychologists call it the rapacious beast--often pushes a person into different directions which in many cases might be negative. Here we have young people who are anchored to the sidewalks and whose only concern is to spend their time annoying passers-by and wrangling with them. There are children who play in the streets, exposing themselves to many dangers. One of their most popular games is starting fires in garbage piles and car tires and then throwing pressurized pesticide cans in the fire so that the cans would explode. The sound of such an explosion amuses them.

Both male and female adults go to gatherings where al-Qat [Catha edulis Forskal] and alcohol are consumed. Gatherings for women have begun to spread in a regrettable manner.

The basic origin of all these phenomena and maladies as we said is idle leisure and the absence of artistic, literary and recreational facilities where those people can spend their leisure time after their daily work. These phenomena cannot most certainly be eliminated by law. Instead, alternatives must be established: parks, recreational spots and athletic

and intellectual facilities. In addition to the fact that our country is blessed with beautiful scenery, it also has the requirements for setting up many of these activities. We have a coast line that is approximately 750 miles long. Why don't we take advantage of what nature gave us?

Accordingly, I had several questions which I took to the authorized agencies. [I asked] about domestic tourism; about the negative conditions of the recreational spots and parks that have been closed; about the artistic groups and the fact that they have not been performing for the public locally and that their performances were confined to foreign activities or other occasions. [And I asked] about children. What have we offered them in the International Year of the Child? Where are the playgrounds, and how can we forget the role they play in the education and growth of a child?

The Negative Factors of Work

A person cannot find an enjoyable and a comfortable place in the popular resthouses which constitute the recreational areas and the places where people spend their leisure. All aspects of the Nashawan recreational spot provide a good example of this. Nashawan lacks coordination and service. For example, it needs some simple things that require attention and will not cost the Tourism Organization enormous sums of money. It requires that seats be well coordinated and that appropriate lights be provided.

The lights can be of assistance to the workers at the spot, enabling them to apprehend those who vandalize the decor and the contents which give the recreational spot its splendor and beauty. The fountain, for example, is not operational as a result of the conduct of some of the patrons, children you young people, who have nothing to do in their spare time but play games and abuse everything that is beautiful. No matter what, we do not agree with the official agency which finds in the conduct of such deviants justification for its failures and its shortcomings.

The other aspect [of this problem] which we wanted to refer pertains to service, that is, service to the patrons of these recreational spots. It has been observed that service is not up to par with the resources that have been spent to operate and establish these recreational spots. A quick visit to the Nashawan recreational spot will make us find a number of young workers gathered in the interior hall of the recreational spot where they cause more disturbance to the patrons than offer comfort and service. In addition, they are not capable--and this has been observed--of performing any additional work. Besides, foods and beverages required by patrons are not available; if available, they are expensive.

I presented these observations to Brother 'Abdallah al-Hamzi, director of the Tourism Division in the Public Organization for Tourism. He explained that there were negative factors and shortcomings that went hand in hand with the activities and the work of these recreational spots. [He said] that most of them were the result of a shortage in qualified and trained labor. He did, however, give us hope that corrections and improvements would be made, and he went on to say, "Many of these shortcomings and problems that we are facing in this regard will be solved next year when we open the Tourism Training Center where the professional and the functional staff for operating these spots will be trained. Discussions will be held and lectures will also be offered to give [people] an idea about how tourism can be stimulated in these facilities and what services can be offered there. We hope to accommodate the largest number possible of secondary and preparatory school graduates."

The Problem of Food Staples

Regarding the part [of the problem] pertaining to providing foods and beverages and the high prices which are being charged for them if they are available, Brother al-Hamzi says, "The food organizations, such as the Meat and Vegetables Organization, do not provide us with our needs. Instead, they sell us the goods at a price that is higher than that of the market and the private sector "

The Recreational Spot Classification Experiment

Regarding the classification of recreational spots and making some of them for families and others for the public, he said, "The classification of recreational spots was an experiment that was the result of the unsavory conduct of some of our young people. But now after we have seen the negative sides of this experiment, it is our opinion that we maintain only the (Arawi) recreational spot for families and that we open all the others to the public."

Next Year's Projects

About the phenomenon of western music and western bands and the absence of popular art groups and the need to promote the folk art groups so that they can replace these western bands and allow us to enjoy our authentic Yemeni art through the performances they offer in these facilities and in those recreational spots, al-Hamzi said, "The phenomenon of western music [in these spots] is due to the wishes of patrons. In general, we are now trying to make use of the folk dancing groups that are affiliated with the Division of Information. They perform in the tourist facilities, and we have a number of artists who participate in these performances. This represents part of the improvements that we are trying to create in our tourist facilities next year. We want to build a library and to provide magazines and books, and we want to benefit from the documentary films which can be shown every other week. In addition [we want to have]

recreational devices and some children's games for the purpose of putting spare time to use in these facilities. In addition, there is the project for the coastal strip which runs from the bridge to the Golden Coast Club. This area will be provided with tourist and public facilities where various tourist services will be offered."

On domestic tourism al-Hamzi said, "Several tourism programs are being organized for some organizations, schools and popular organizations. They will visit tourist areas and historical sites, and they will go on tourist trips on terms in the form of reduced costs for lodging and for tour guide [services]. This is done with the cooperation of other establishments like the food organizations and the Land and Air Transportation Organization. These organizations have to bring the prices of tourist programs down to a minimum because price affects tourist traffic and does in fact have a bigger effect on the tourist's decision."

A Point of View:

We are still saying that the 43 facilities require constant field observation of the course and the standards of service. None of these facilities has been fully and properly utilized. Although there are some difficulties, we are hoping that these shortcomings which these facilities are suffering from will be correct and that they will be properly operated.

We are also suggesting that the method of computing a charge for service at a certain percentage of the item ordered--or what is called a service charge--be put into effect.

We are asking why aren't these facilities open from the morning? If the place is exposed to the rays of the sun, umbrellas can be used.

The front hall of (Arawi) recreational spot, for example, can be used; it can be used as a public place that could be open all day to the public, and patrons can be served cold beverages. We want to call the attention of these food organizations to the fact that cooperation is necessary. If high prices are acceptable in hotels, they are not acceptable in popular resthouses where meals are supposed to be unpretentious and within reach of all people. These foods must be made available, and as Brother al-Hamzi said, "Eggs in tourist work, for example, make up a main meal."

Children's Playgrounds and Public Parks

I began my interview with the fellow Engineer 'Abdallah Ghanim by referring to a previous interview 14 OCTOBER had had with [our] brother, the governor in which he had said that the appropriations for children's playgrounds had been spent and that the playgrounds would be ready by September. September has come and gone, and we have not seen a single playground.

Brother Ghanim replies, "This failure is due to a manpower shortage." They had from 80 to 90 workers only for all functions. He said, "We are asked to carry out emergency work, and this disrupts another side [of our work]. It is for this reason that work progresses slowly."

He added, "We have now begun to build some new playgrounds in the heavily populated areas such as Dar Sa'd, and we are repairing others, such as the al-Tawilah Playground. We are hoping that these will be completed soon. The needs of the child and his attendants have been taken into consideration in establishing these playgrounds. There will also be special sections in the same playgrounds for handicapped children out of consideration for the psychological effect that discrimination between the handicapped and the non-handicapped might have on them."

"These playgrounds will also have teams of guides to give parents guidance about the necessity of protecting those playgrounds and considering them inseparable parts of their private possessions."

About public parks he said, "It is not true that they are closed; public parks are open to the public." But after a quick visit to these parks we will find that many of them are closed, such as the former al-Bajishah Park, which is beside al-Shuhada' Park. It has become ruins.

Those parks that are open are open for a short period during the day--during the evening shift only. We wonder why isn't there any cooperation between the municipality and the Tourism [Organization] to provide tourist services inside these parks?

As a result of the poor conduct of some of the patrons of public parks, such as al-Kumsari Park, a decision was made to charge an admissions fee for cars for the purpose of checking the damage that is caused by car passengers throwing refuse throughout the park. In fact, cars may be banned from the park and admission may be confined to pedestrians.

Artistic Performances

The artistic performances that we are experiencing these days are being held on the occasion of the Second Convention of the Association of Democratic Yemeni Artists and its branches in the governorates. The popular response to their successful presentations was considerable, and the price of a ticket varied from three to five dirhams. But is this situation taking place as usual because of the [special] occasion, or is it a beginning that will continue afterwards? We have many artists and artistic groups that can offer different performances and arts. Besides, these groups can benefit from the returns [of these performances] to strengthen their activities and develop themselves.

Brother Ahmad Ibn Ghawdal director of the Institute of Fine Arts gives us hope that we will always see these arts which prove that the Yemeni person is capable of appreciating the arts of the world in what he offers

and that he is capable of innovations. [Brother Ibn Ghawdal] gave us hope that we will live with our authentic Yemeni art instead of with the western music and songs that have begun to pervade our young people.

Brother Ibn Ghawdal said that the experiment was successful and encouraging and that we will continue to offer our artistic performances to the public--acrobatics, dancing and singing. There is an agreement between us and the Public Organization for the Cinema according to which we are to offer two artistic performances a month in every region. This will be an incentive for the creation of a developing artistic movement in the area, and it will restore the people's confidence in the performances that we will offer.

But there are difficulties that may hinder our course when we implement these programs. We will, however, try to overcome these difficulties. Most of our artists are not devoting full time effort to their art. Some of them are students, and some are employees. We are now trying to make them devote full time to artistic endeavors. This, on the other hand, is besides our commitment, to participate in other occasions and agencies."

Brother Ibn Ghawdal also expressed his willingness to hold performances in recreational spots if there is serious and sincere cooperation and coordination.

Finally, Brother Ibn Ghawdal called upon official agencies and those who have ties with the institute--such as the ministries of culture, labor, finance, the Central Committee and the Ministry of Defense--to go to the institute, to observe its different activities and to make note of the shortages it is suffering from so as to determine if in fact it does need support and development. The institute has ties with all agencies because they request its participation. We are confident that the institute will get the subsidy and the support from all the responsible agencies in the party and in the state because it does have a prominent role in the revival and development of our artistic heritage.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

ECONOMIC PLANNING OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATIONS

Aden SAWT AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 3 Jan 80 p 7

[Article: "High Development Allocation Rates for Second Year"]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Supreme People's Assembly approved in their two latest sessions the second year development plan, the 1980 current budget and the importation program after a comprehensive evaluation of the first year of the second five-year plan.

This newspaper has submitted a special request to brother 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabbar, the assistant deputy planning minister for economic affairs, to shed light on these issues. He has said:

The volume of the planned investment and current spending for 1980 will amount to 194 million dinars, including 91 million dinars comprising the total investments for the year's plan and 103 million dinars for the current expenditures (the general state budget). Thus, the allocations for investments amount to 47 percent of the planned total spending.

The investment allocations constitute nearly one third the expected production in 1980 and approximately one half the expected national production. These are considered high rates if compared with the other developing countries.

It is obvious from this that the volume of the 1980 investment allocations, even though apparently modest in terms of absolute figures, constitutes in terms of the available financial resources a high percentage of these resources channelled toward development at the expense of a relative reduction in the government's current spending.

This is compatible with the principles of the Yemeni Socialist Party that calls for achieving a higher rate of economic development through channelling a high percentage of the resources for investment so as to guarantee raising the people's living standard, both materially and culturally.

The 1980 development plan seeks to exert continued efforts to introduce fundamental changes in the national economy's structure--changes in the

interest of production and the productive service sectors. Therefore, 77 percent of the investment allocations will be used to develop the production sector and 23 percent to develop the social services sector.

Twenty seven percent of the total investment appropriations have been allocated for the industry and energy sector, 22 percent for the agriculture sector, eight percent for the fisheries and fishing industry sector, 20 percent for transport, communications and installations and 23 percent for the social services and housing sectors.

When preparing the plan, consideration was given to harmonizing the volume of the planned installation works with the implementation capacity. Therefore, 49 percent of the total investment appropriations have been allocated for construction and installation. This is below the percentage planned in the second five-year plan program.

The appropriations for studies, blueprints, machinery and equipment have been raised by eight percent for studies and by 33 percent for machinery and equipment. The rest has been allocated for other investment spending.

Regarding the realization of a balance between the resources and the expenditures, consideration was given when approving the total investment volume to avoiding any gap in the estimated financing for 1980.

The local resources will contribute 25 million dinars, or 28 percent of the total financing resources. Forty two percent will also be secured from the local resources in the form of bank loans advanced by the banking apparatus to the public establishments to implement some of their projects. Moreover, a number of the public establishments will contribute by implementing some of their projects from intrinsic financing resources constituting nearly 22 percent of the local financing resources. The rest will be allocated from the net profits of the public establishments which will form 36 percent [sic] of the local financing resources.

The financing by foreign resources will amount to 66 million dinars or 72 percent of the total investment financing resources. Foreign loans constitute 85 percent of the total foreign resources and foreign aid constitutes 15 percent.

Loans and aid from the socialist countries constitute a high percentage of the foreign resources.

When preparing the 1980 investment plan, consideration was given to linking this plan with the importation program so as to secure the supply and consumer goods to meet the people's needs, the development requirements in the form of equipment, machinery and construction materials and the requirements of the existing projects in the form of production and raw materials. An importation program of 190 million dinars has been approved and ratified.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS, SOME SETBACKS DETAILED

Aden SAWT AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 3 Jan 80 pp 6-8, 11

[Article: "What Has Been Accomplished, not Accomplished and Why in Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform; Manpower Planning; Plan Discussion; Administrative Followup Responsibility"]

[Text] It is extremely important to discuss what has been accomplished and what has not been accomplished in agriculture because, first, agriculture is a fundamental sector in our national economy from which we hope for a great lot and because, secondly, it is a sector that deals daily with scientific estimates on paper and a geographic area that affects and is affected by the objective conditions. We will publish here what the planning unit of the Ministry of Agriculture has produced until the third quarter of the first year of the second five-year plan out of the desire to increase the efficiency of the popular masses, especially of the workers and the farmers, through familiarizing them with their accomplishments so that they may have a clear vision and may participate extensively in the discussions and in formulating the solutions.

The total allocations for this year have amounted to 18,821,119 dinars and the total spending by the end of the third quarter amounted to 8,434,589 dinars, i.e. at a financial completion rate of 45 percent.

We notice that the low level of financial completion has been more considerable in the foreign contributions than in the local contributions, as evidenced by the following:

| Total Allocations: | Total Spending: | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----|
| 18,821,119 dinars. | 8,434,589 | Financial Completion | 45% |
| Local Contributions: 9,136,119 | 4,888,775 | | 53% |
| Foreign Contributions: 9,685,000 | 3,556,841 | | 37% |

The low financial completion rate of the projects by the end of the third quarter of 1979 is due to the following causes:

1. Computation of the expenditures on the first phase of the project to develop Abyan delta (as advance accounts not balanced in the project budget during the third quarter). These accounts were balanced in the fourth quarter.
2. The inability to get contractors to implement the construction program for the Irrigation Engineering Training Center and for the Public Administration building. A large part of the allocations for the irrigation administration building has been carried over to the 1980 budget.
3. Delay by the Ministry of Installations in undertaking the construction program defined by the agreements pertaining to the project for the improvement of agricultural production.
4. The unavailability of foreign sources of financing for the project for irrigation by sprinkling and for the sheep feed lots. This is in addition to the delay in beginning the implementation of some projects for reasons connected with the foreign financing sources, such as the project for the pioneer farm in Abyan delta, the project to develop the maintenance workshops and the leasing stations and the project to develop Wadi Mayfa'ah.
5. The relatively low rate of spending on the project to develop Tuba delta is due to the delay in securing the foreign financing for the project, considering that this financing was not actually secured until the second half of 1979. This caused the field works to be carried out in the second half of the year.

Following is a summary of the actual accomplishments of the projects by the end of the third quarter:

First, Irrigation and Mechanical Engineering Projects:

The Irrigation Department controls 17 projects, including seven projects in the first five-year plan and 10 new projects. By the end of the third quarter of this year, work started to complete implementation of the projects carried over from the first five-year plan and to begin implementation of the new projects, except for the pioneer farm project for reasons connected with the sources of financing, the irrigation by sprinkling project for the unavailability of the foreign source of financing, the project for the premises of the Public Irrigation Department due to the unavailability of a local contractor to implement the project so far--keeping in mind that the blueprints and the designs for this building have been prepared. The study on Nisab area was also delayed and was only started in the third quarter of this year.

By the end of the third quarter of this year, the following was accomplished--in addition to the soil and concrete works, the building of waterfalls, the installation of irrigation regulators, and paving roads with (gravel) and other daily works:

The construction of 32,687 reinforced cement (blocks) in (al-Dayw) area, 400 cubic meters of land filling in the main canal, waterfalls and regulators and 350 cubic in (al-tillksat), in addition to laying down the pipes for the quadrilateral canals.

Surveying and levelling 5,838.5 feddans, 4,000 of them in the first phase of the project to develop Abyan delta, 1,638.5 feddans in the project to dig the main and subsidiary canals and 200 feddans in the project to drill wells and to reclaim fallow lands in Wadi Hadramawt.

Drilling 45 wells, 13 of them in the Second Governorate, 11 in the Third Governorate, 25 in the Fourth Governorate, 14 in the Fifth Governorate through the well-drilling project and two wells in the project to drill wells and reclaim lands in Wadi Hadramawt [figures as published].

The installation of pumps and generators [muharrikat] for four wells through the project to drill wells, the installation of 11 pumps and two power generators through the project to drill wells in Wadi Hadramawt and the installation of two pumps in the Ghil ibn Yamin farm through the project to set up and develop the state farms.

Digging main and subsidiary canals with a total length of nearly 36.8 kilometers, including about 23 kilometers of subsidiary canals and 13.8 kilometers of main canals in the project to dig canals, in addition to 7 kilometers of main and subsidiary canals in the project to reclaim lands in Wadi Hadramawt.

Completing a large part of the components of the comprehensive study on Wadi Hadramawt, such as the laboratory works, aerial [survey] works, digging and studying the soil layers down to a depth of 5 meters, studies on the level of water consumption and other works.

Preparing the blueprints and the designs for the Irrigation Department building and for the central workshop for the maintenance of agricultural machinery, concluding contract No 2 on the construction materials, machinery and raw materials for the central workshop, determining the site for the construction of the Irrigation Department building and inviting bids for the implementation of the project.

Levelling and repairing 1,684,096 meters of earth works and of concrete works for the main and subsidiary canals. A total of 1,577 cubic meters of stone works have been carried out to repair 183 irrigation installations, in addition to spreading 11,400 cubic meters of gravel on the sides of the main and subsidiary canals.

Installing the framework for the (Lab'us) maintenance workshop in the Third Governorate and starting the electrical works in the workshop.

Putting the Mayfa' Hajar workshop into operation, collecting the vehicles from the Mayfa'ah Cooperative in the Fourth Governorate and delivering them to the station [presumably the workshop].

Analyzing 216 soil samples and 383 water samples in the project for the Irrigation Engineering Training Center, conducting the first quarter examinations for the second batch of students and the second quarter examinations first batch of students and resuming studies at the center after the vacation.

Analyzing the weather data of the meteorological station for 1977 and 1978 and analyzing the salinity rate of 42 wells in Tubn delta and Mukayris, starting the work in three more wells in the Sixth Governorate, four wells in the Fifth Governorate, seven wells in the Fourth Governorate, two wells in the Third Governorate and three wells constituting a part of the Nasir wells in the Second Governorate, putting the Ahwar meteorological station into operation and completing the outside [sic] study on Wadi Bayhan.

Determining the site for a well in the poultry farm in Dar Sa'd and the sites for the remaining wells in the Fifth and Second Governorates and numbering the wells existing in Wadi Ma'adin and Tur al-Bahah, measuring the underground water level in 46 wells in the Second Governorate and 19 wells in Mukayris, analyzing the observation [al-Irsadiyah] data for 12 wells in Mukayris and 25 wells in the Second Governorate, [measuring] the flood waters and repairing the meteorological station in Mayfa'ah for the water resources project.

Preparing the initial report on the water study in Tubn delta, beginning the works to install a cable to measure flood water in Dukaym, continuing the survey work in al-Manasirah farm, concluding contracts with local establishments to open subsidiary roads and to supply six villages with drinking water, completing all the measures for the international bids to study agricultural pricing, taxes and compensations--the bids are expected to be opened in the fourth quarter of this year--and beginning the preparations for the international bids to import machinery, equipment, fertilizers and pesticides in accordance with the program for the project to develop Tubn delta.

Completing the blueprints for Wadi Mayfa'ah and the final blueprints and designs for the model farm belonging to the project to develop Wadi Mayfa'ah. The trees have been pulled out of the farm site (100 hectares) and credit letters have been opened to import the pumps and generators for the model farm from Italy. This equipment is expected to be delivered in the fourth quarter of this year. A credit has been also opened to import a machine for making cinder blocks from France and it is expected to be delivered before the end of this year.

Distributing the (jabyunat) nets to the governorates (90 items, 1,750 pieces), building al-Fayyush culvert, building concrete barriers on the sides of al-Wadi al-Saghir, opening a canal to supply al-Wadi al-Saghir in the Second Governorate [with water], opening and paving with gravel 4.5 kilometers of roads in Wadi Hadramawt.

Completing the installation of 4,500 pieces of (al-jabyunat) nets in the various wadis [valleys] of the five governorates: Raydat al-Ma'arah (in

the Fifth Governorate), Jawl Mayfa' Hajar, Wadi Hadramawt, Wadi Bayhan, Yashim al-Sa'id, al-Muhaffad, al-Khubar, Yaramis, al-Jilayn, Tur al-Bahah, Dur 'Ilisan, al-Hawtah, Lahaj and al-Musaymir.

Cultivating 1,454 feddans, including 1,393 feddans in the project to exploit the reclaimed lands and 61 feddans in Wadi Mayfa'ah project.

Most Significant Difficulties:

1. The inadequacy of the appropriations allocated for some projects.
2. The lack of labor, especially skilled labor and craftsmen--such as carpenters and masons.
3. The shortage in some equipment and of spareparts for the machinery.
4. The unavailability of a cadre for the maintenance of meteorological and irrigation engineering equipment and the lack of a cadre in the sphere of hydraulics.
5. The unavailability of clover and fine corn seeds and urea fertilizer for the projects to exploit state lands and farms (al-Mashhad and Bahran in the Fifth Governorate).
6. The inability to get housing for the foreign experts in accordance with the provisions of the contract for the two projects of Nisab and Wadi Mayfa'ah.

Second, Livestock and Poultry Projects:

Building a workers' housing unit, building a number of pens, a storehouse and a water reservoir and completing work in the (al-'Amudiyah) farm.

Starting the operation of Lenin and Maraqid farms and producing 333,957 tons [sic] of milk, of which 882 tons have been sold to the dairy plant. This milk comes from the production of the various cattle farms in the Second and Third Governorates. A total of 636 heads of sheep have been sold to the Public Meat Marketing Establishment and 320 heads of improve strains of sheep have been supplied to the state farms and the cooperatives.

There have been 2,990 births [presumably foals and lambs] and 132 deaths. A total of 38 aid feddans in Mujahid farm were cultivated with summer crops and clover.

Completing the blueprints for the first main veterinary center scheduled by the plan to be built near the town of Lahaj.

Making the arrangements for the importation of two vehicles equipped as mobile veterinary clinics.

Observation: Insofar as selling milk to the dairy plant and distributing improved strains of sheep to the state farms and the cooperatives are concerned, these accomplishments have not been mentioned as part of the material accomplishments of the third quarter of this year.

Insofar as poultry is concerned, the following has been accomplished:

Completing the construction and installation works in the Zanzibar unloading unit and the works in al-Riwa' and al-Hisn poultry farms and building four more pens in al-Makhzan farm for native strains.

Shaqrab and al-Makhzan farms have begun the phase of production and al-Kud farm has been equipped to enter the stage of production with the beginning of the fourth quarter of this year.

Completing nearly 80 percent of the program to market the production of Dar Sa'd farms.

Building eight pens in Dar Sa'd farms No 1 and No 2, in addition to the work currently underway to complete the fences and to build the cages in Fawh farm and to build the headquarters of the Hungarian mission in the farm.

Difficulties:

1. The unavailability of the proper land for calf fattening. This has caused the delay in beginning implementation of the project.
2. The unavailability of milking equipment for al-Maraqid and Bi'r Ahmad farms.
3. The unavailability of processed and fresh feed in some farms and this has affected the total milk production and the breeding and fattening of sheep.
4. The unavailability of barbed wire to be used for building fences in Dar Sa'd poultry farm.
5. The unavailability of an administrative cadre for the veterinary centers project.

Third, Agricultural Production Management Projects:

Surveying 341 feddans in state farms.

Coating a total length of 685 meters of canals in Tur al-Bahah farm and 700 meters in al-Asalib and (Tamnah) farm in the Fourth Governorate.

Concluding 11 agreements for building a popular housing project, a storehouse and a recreation hall for agricultural workers of the state farms in the Fourth Governorate.

Building rooms for pumps, a water reservoir and barbed wire fence around 300 feddans in Ghil ibn Yamin farm and building six rooms for pumps in Martyr Muhammad Musa'Id farm in the Fourth Governorate.

Purchasing four motor-grader vehicles and two (doorman) machines for Markhah farm in the Fourth Governorate.

Installing three sifting machines in Nisab, Say'un and La'dun farms, a corn harvester and the delivery of a testing laboratory by the Local Installations Establishment.

Cultivating 780 feddans with various crops, including 544 feddans in the state farms and 216 feddans in the seed production project.

Cultivating 71 feddans with bananas in the Third Governorate, nine feddans with watermelons and 20 feddans with (ghurbah) in 'Abar Ya'qub farm in the Second Governorate, draining and fertilizing 603 feddans planted with bananas, planting 2,000 trees to form windbreakers and cultivating 138 feddans with grains and vegetables in 'Abar Ya'qub farm.

Supplying 5,000 local banana seedlings to Naqab al-Hajar farm and distributing 75 kilograms of papaya seeds to the state farms.

Coating the canals in 'Abar Ya'qub farm (250 cubic meters), completing the soil study and building a room and a pond for the ('Ara'lan) farm in the Third Governorate and beginning the implementation of the management building for the Ya'qub Farm and supplying it with the construction requirements.

Coating 870 cubic meters of canals with cement, including 500 square [sic] meters in Dahal Ahmad farm and 37 square meters in Naqab al-Hajar farm in the Fourth Governorate.

Producing 5,187 tons of bananas for local marketing.

Completing construction of the agricultural development project's storehouse in the Third Governorate, receiving the machinery and spareparts for potato, onion and banana cultivation, in addition to the equipment and piping for the drilling project--imported with surpluses in the project. The project has also contributed nearly 60 percent of the costs of building the second pen in al-Thawrah (Mujahid) farm.

Concluding a contract for building a premises for the project management at the Agriculture Directorate of the Third Governorate.

Most Significant Difficulties

The failure to complete the irrigation networks for the state farms, considering that these networks and the largest part of the main and subsidiary canals are not organized scientifically.

The shortage of labor.

The unavailability of spareparts for the machinery, tractors and engines.

The failure to install pumps on the wells drilled by the well drilling project. This requires securing the appropriations needed for the project to establish and develop the state farms.

The unsuitability of the road leading to La'dun farm and the unavailability of funds, estimated at 41,000 dinars, to supply electricity to this farm. This is in addition to the unavailability of 40,000 dinars needed for wheat seeds in the Fourth and Fifth Governorates.

The failure of the directors of state farms and of the cooperatives in the Second and Third Governorates to collect the seeds (corn) allocated for them according to the plan.

The constant power outages in the state farms in the southern district of the Third Governorate.

The unavailability of construction materials in the Domestic Trade Company.

Fourth, Research and Agricultural Training Projects:

Regarding Pioneer Farms:

The survey on al-Kud farm was completed, the winter program for al-Kud, al-'Ara'is and al-Suwayri farms was implemented fully, the machinery for the farms was installed, the agricultural operations in the winter cultivation program were determined in the light of the experiments of 1978 and 1979 and construction of the storehouses and of the offices in al-'Ara'is farm was completed.

The winter program was prepared in the light of the pioneer farms plan for 1979-80.

Regarding Agricultural Research and Training:

Preparing the experimental program for the main 1979-80 season.

Completing nearly 95 percent of soil (building), winter orchard irrigation for 1978-79, completing 65 percent of the library building, 80 percent of the agricultural guidance and training building in the Second Governorate, 85 percent of the building in the Fifth Governorate and building a warehouse for the mechanization section.

Producing 39,930 forest seedlings and 53,000 fruit seedlings and completing the cultivation of 54 feddans with Virginia tobacco and 23 feddans with local tobacco.

Setting up the tobacco nursery within the limits of 135 (lots producing 20 kilograms for each kilogram of seed) and fully preparing 22 feddans for cultivation and 25 feddans for production.

Harvesting 13 feddans of corn and delivering a quantity of local tobaccos to al-Kud and 13,279 kilograms of tobaccos to the plant [sic].

Building four furnaces for drying [the tobacco, presumably] and completing construction of the pest-control building.

Giving two medium courses and three short courses and a training course for the farmers in Mukayris area and taking part in the campaigns to protect cotton, potatoes, tomatoes and palm date trees (for control of al-humayrah pest).

Regarding Development of Fruit Cultivation:

Two (pumps) were installed and a water basin was built in Lahaj nursery, 6 silos were built in the new nursery in al-Kud, a complete study was drawn up to improve 100 feddans in al-Husayni orchard, 10 feddans were cultivated with orange and tangerine trees in al-Muhaffad farm and cooperative and 80 feddans in the banana farm were prepared to be cultivated with fruits.

Difficulties:

Shortage of labor and of skilled workers, especially in the sphere of tobacco production.

The unavailability of houses for the technicians who are thus compelled to live in the First Governorate.

The unavailability of high-capacity spraying equipment for the pest control project and of spareparts for the vehicles and the cars in Ghil Bawazir in the Fifth Governorate.

The low level of commitment by the directors of the state farms and of the cooperatives to the implementation of the recommendations of the research center and of the section for the control and improvement of the various agricultural operations.

The failure to complete the installations on schedule by the domestic establishments involved in the agreements. This affects the level of spending from the appropriations.

The failure of the Trade Company to supply the demands of the fruit development project for vehicles and ploughs.

The failure of the (banana) farm to implement the plan to prepare 60 feddans for the cultivation of oranges.

The unclear future of tobacco in the republic, insofar as pricing and economic feasibility are concerned.

Fifth, Other Projects:

A. The Wadi Hadramawt Agricultural Project:

Completing the construction of an 11-kilometer long dirt road in the Fifth Governorate and proceeding to build (Hib'ayn) road in the central district.

Continuing the work in the sand dune stabilization area so as to begin the second phase of aforestation.

Surveying 36 feddans in the cooperative farm in Qarisah and beginning the distribution [sic].

Concluding a contract for installing the dates processing unit with the French (Sebghal) Company.

Preparation of the construction blueprints for the said unit by the Public Vegetables and Fruits Marketing Establishment which controls the unit.

Most Significant Difficulties:

Some cooperatives sell the fertilizers supplied to them at a high price to some parties outside the project and to farmers included within the cooperatives. These cooperatives sell the fertilizers at a higher price than the set retail price.

The Foreign Trade Company's insistence on the payment of all the value of imports in cash and the project's requests that are obstructed in the Ministry of Trade and Supply.

B. Project to Develop Cooperative Institute:

No tangible accomplishment was made on this project by the end of the third quarter.

C. Projects of Public Vegetables and Fruits Marketing Establishment:

Work has not begun in these projects yet due to the unavailability of a bank loan to finance these projects from the National Bank. However, a spending loan was advanced for these projects at the beginning of the fourth quarter of this year with the approval of the Ministry of Planning. The comprehensive 1979 report will include this loan.

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CSO: 4802

WESTERN SAHARA

JOURNALIST VISITS SAHARA, TALKS WITH POLISARIO LEADERS

Madrid MUNDO OBRERO in Spanish 23, 24, 25 Jan 80

[Article by Fernando Valenzuela: "A Trip to the Sahara"]

[23 Jan 80 p 8]

[Text] "For us 1980 is the year of peace. Why do we want peace? During these 4 years of war the Western Saharan people have put two-thirds of their efforts into safeguarding their existence in order to survive. They are a people who were invaded, attacked from without by a stronger army which has required of them great organizational efforts. It has been necessary to organize the country, the people, to educate the children, train a modern army, express the Western Saharan people's voice to the whole world, organize the people politically, consolidate the institutions we established after Spain's departure. This has taken up two-thirds of our efforts, but today these problems are resolved and we are ready to build up the war for national liberation to a higher level. This is the time when we can concentrate our efforts mainly on liberating our territory. And this is the time when we say: Yes, we are for peace. We have proven it by the peace dynamics we have implemented with Mauritania. Our desire to do likewise with Morocco could not be realized."

Omar Hadrami is one of the POLISARIO Front's principal leaders, a member of its Political Bureau and of its military leadership. We were with him at the "9 June" school somewhere in Algerian territory very close to the Western Saharan border, not too far from the town of Tindouf.

In this area those of the POLISARIO have their refugee encampments, the schools for their children, the reception center for foreign visitors. Thirty or 40 of us newsmen coming from so many different places heard last year's balance sheet and the plans for the coming one at this sort of New Year celebration which the Polisario organized for us in the middle of the desert.

The working plan includes exhibiting the war materiel seized and the prisoners of war. The day after tomorrow when the majority of the visitors will already be back in Algiers, we will leave in a small group for the interior seeking a personal idea of the setting in which the Western Saharan guerrillas live and are fighting.

In the midst of the buzzing of cameras and the light of flashes, Omar Hadrami went on talking.

"We said yes to peace and we are prepared to impose it through an offensive in every domain and especially in the military one. You will doubtless have an opportunity to observe events with us in the course of this year; to see to what extent the king is unable to control the Sahara. This year will be a very significant year from the standpoint of imposing peace. This is the only alternative remaining to the POLISARIO Front in that Morocco is closing all doors on any political solution."

Helping Morocco

Those of the POLISARIO are very clear in their stands: not the slightest trace of anti-Moroccan aggressiveness. The Moroccans are a fraternal people and they must be helped. Above all, their traditional friends should help them to get out of this war, they should cease supplying the arms which enable Hassan to maintain his obstinacy and to reject any political way out. Those who are interested in the stability of Morocco should do something to resolve a situation which is already threatening the country's very national unity, an economic and social situation which is already striking even the most privileged strata. Moroccan nationalism, patriotism--the Western Saharans emphasize--consists in defending Morocco's interests above everything else and these interests overlook ending a war that has made the fraternal country suffer so much, which is destroying its army, which is creating an intolerable situation for the people.

"In the course of this year," Hadrami asserted, "many things will change in Morocco. We have reached an impasse where changes have become essential."

Quantities of Arms

We got into the Land Rovers and went forth across the desert. The trip was short and after a few minutes we came to an esplanade. At the entrance, two of the POLISARIO members in strictly correct campaign uniforms, stalwart as they say those of the legion were. Over the area of a football field, more or less, was lined up the war materiel taken from the Moroccans. A line of tanks in perfect condition and with the motors running, painted light beige, as though they were about to start out. They were Soviet T-54's. Of the same origin as a large part of the materiel from Morocco, from what they told us, supplied to Hassan by Egypt. And machineguns and mortars in a very long line, and cases of projectiles which appeared to make up showcases for a market of death. Land Rovers of Spanish origin and others from England, with green license plates and the yellow crown of the Royal Armed Forces.

Small missile-throwing tanks, heavy machineguns, huge canonballs of a plastic grey color and a spectacular half-destroyed missile thrower, useless, like a sort of monument to scientific perversion. In one corner, like a small graveyard of papers, an exhibit of military identity cards, registration books, various documents, each more confidential than the next, the signs of panic, of flight, of defeat.

The Prisoners

Gathered together in groups according to date and location of capture, the saddest part of war; fed, clothed, shod, but with thin smiles, there were the prisoners. A major, two captains, various officers of lower grades, some tens of privates.

The first of the captains the one with whom we talked, is brief and direct. He has been there for months and his phrase: "For me this is already over," was like a sigh of relief that must also have been a whole summary of bitter experience. What is important is to be alive.

The last officer to arrive had been there only a few days. He was captured, badly wounded in the Hagunia attack. He was recovering from his wounds and got out of the jeep in which he was sitting of his own free will. Mezuari Lagloui was his name. His neck and arm were bandaged, his face had become thin but his voice was strong and so was his initial response: "For me the war is already over" and he added without being asked, "this is a fratricidal war and it has to be stopped." An amazed newsman asked him what the reasons were for statements of that kind that might close the door forever on his return to Morocco. "I did not give myself up, I fulfilled my military duty up to the end and they got me because I was wounded. I say this because I believe I must also fulfill my civic duty." Almost incredible, sadly moving, a clear reminder that war is war, even the most justified and heroic one.

The Mirages Are Being Brought Down

Some 50 meters away the canopy of a parachute was drifting through the air like a strange globe white and orange in color. We went over there and spoke with the pilot of a Mirage plane brought down while he was supporting the Moroccan troops in the face of a POLISARIO attack against the Zag garrison. Young, slim, well-protected from the cold by the green coveralls of pursuit pilots, he spoke with the clarity of a technician without the enthusiasm of a soldier. A special circumstance made his case more interesting. This same young man and smart officer was the one who a few weeks ago appeared on Moroccan television inviting young men to enlist in the air force. He was a member of the campaign organized by Hassan to convince the population and soldiers that modern French technology would be the magic solution to finish off the war and the POLISARIO.

"When my plane fell, I set off the ejection system and on landing I ran into POLISARIO combatants. I landed safe and sound and quickly recovered. They asked me if I was hurt and I told them I was not, but they insisted several

times and I had to repeat myself. They put me in a Land Rover and gave me water to drink. I was somewhat stunned... That is normal if you take into account the fact that the speed of the ejection system is tremendous, some 16 G's. They offered me tea in accordance with the Western Saharan tradition and that same afternoon they brought me here."

"What was your mission?"

"The Moroccan forces had been attacked at Zag and I who was in Marrakech received orders to support them. That was 9 December 1979."

"How did you support them?"

"By gunfire and rockets."

A newsman next to me asked him about the presence of foreign military personnel on the Moroccan side.

"There are French military advisers but they do not participate in operations, their only mission involves aviation technology. They are at the Sidi Simane base."

"How many Mirages are there in the Sahara at the present time?"

"Four in Marrakech and five at El Aayun."

"Have they been effective?"

"It is not a matter of materiel, you have the materiel here"--he pointed to the remains of his plane--"it is the man who decides."

"How has the 'human materiel' behaved?"

"The Mirage was the last card to raise the troops' morale. I do not know what the morale will be like after the three Mirages are destroyed."

[24 Jan 80 p 6]

[Text] The encampments, in which a large part of the West Saharan people are living today, are spread out along the border between Algeria and the Sahara. A few years ago there were about 120,000 people according to data from the "Western Saharan half-moon"; now there are surely many more. In lines kilometers long the "Jaimas," the traditional tents of the men of the desert, stand out. At intervals, in the center of the street, a single structure of mud which serves as a dispensary, shop, Koranic school and butane distribution point.

By the tents' entrance the women were preparing a meal, the children were running about and looked with amusement at the strange visitor. When we entered one of these small mud houses, the little mats on the floor were covered with carpets for receiving guests. A butane gas cylinder took the place of the typical braziers and as was to be repeated further on at every step, the three little glasses of sweet green tea offered to us represented the traditional hospitality of the desert.

In the camps men are extremely rare. The women are responsible for running communal living. It is they who make up the basic people's committees, bodies in which are combined democratic representation and specific attention to the multiple essential tasks, for one of the most vital battles which the Western Saharan people have before them today: Provisioning, health, education; in short, everything needed today to resist under the most difficult circumstances and to be able tomorrow once again to bring life to the desert.

Getting the Children to Study

It was already late when we reached the "9 June" school where the scantiness of means is combined with an extraordinary effort and impressive care to provide primary education to some 1,500 children. The classes were already over and in the classrooms a dim lantern lighted up the Arabic characters on the green blackboards. The dispensary was also virtually empty as it usually is during this cold period and the two male nurses had about the same number of patients. The rumpus came from the abodes. The children were getting ready to eat the noodle soup we had seen already on the tables of the canteen and in the meanwhile they were running, shouting, singing, climbing onto and getting off of the beds. Only the oldest youngsters paid any attention to the presence of a group of newsmen and took advantage of it to make propaganda: Their hands raised with their fingers forming a "V" while they shouted in rhythm "the Polisario will conquer!"

Where Is the Yemaa?

At the visitors' reception center, we had a chance to talk with a few members of the Yemaa, the ancient assembly organized by Spain and by the Moroccan parliament itself. They are living proof of the failure of the various neocolonialist maneuvers, of the more or less blatant attempt to manipulate the local "notables" against the interests of their people. We could not conceal a smile when we recalled the presence of a few of these men who with an exotic accent brightened up the dullness of Franco's Cortes, the favorite figures of the NODO [expansion unknown] and of television. That day there they were explicit evidence of national unity without any distinctions, appearing to have no power of decision whatsoever, but they do accompany the POLISARIO's young leaders and on that occasion amiably replied to questions from the press.

Sueilem Ould Abdalahi was mayor of Villa Cisneros during the period of Spain's domination. He was a member of the Cortes, later a member of the Yemaa and finally of the Mauritanian Parliament. He still retains his tiny moustache

and his characteristic dark glasses. He spoke hardly at all and limited himself to telling us that things had changed a great deal, that the Western Sahara people's assembly was very different from what the Yemaa was, that it was the free expression of the popular will. "Is your work better now?" "Better, better, better, and freer."

In contrast, Abderrahman Maichan, younger and more dynamic, spoke in his own behalf and in that of his companion: "Yesterday we were forced to work in servitude, today we have our own work. It is not the same thing to work in one's own land as to work on foreign soil.

Loving Morocco

"Unfortunately," Abderrahman Maichan said, "Spain does not love Morocco sufficiently since it has involved it in a war which is going against that country and which is destroying it. After all the statements on national unity and the myths of the 'Green March', at the end of a few years Morocco's situation has changed radically. In 1980 one will have to reckon with the Moroccan people whose situation is critical and who will make themselves heard."

The former member of the Yemaa who today is a member like many others of the People's Assembly, resumed talking of the Sahara: "Our country is very rich. When we had the Yemaa, we did nothing with our own resources. Today, in contrast, we are building our own country: schools, hospitals, camps. This is the difference, the difference between national sovereignty and complicity with colonialism."

A Handpicked Parliamentarian

Abderrahman Leibek, young, tall, with a trimmed black beard, did not look like a traditional "notable," he looked like any other young POLISARIO member.

"I was appointed a deputy to the Rabat parliament for Bojador Province. The handpicked deputy of a province that does not exist and where there is nothing but a lighthouse. The Moroccan handpicking authority gathered together the territory's nomads to repopulate the Bojador area and attempt to show public opinion that they had there a province controlled by them. They brought me to Rabat. During the sessions I lived in Rabat and every now and again came to Bojador by plane. From the time the occupation began, the POLISARIO completely controlled the area and we had to travel about by helicopter."

"How did you manage to get out?"

"Getting out is difficult because in their view any Western Saharan, just by being that, is a member of the POLISARIO, including the few who collaborate with them. They issue a sort of passport there sent to Aayun for all Western Saharans but they have orders not to allow them to leave Morocco. A special safeconduct is necessary and I took advantage of my position in parliament and of my residence in Rabat to obtain a normal passport issued in Rabat. I left via Melilla, went to Madrid and from there I came to the Sahara; it was 22 December 1978."

A Besieged Army

At the end of the visiting, we went back to talk with Omar Hadrami. The POLISARIO leader made an analysis of the military situation.

"Morocco is undertaking massive propaganda on its military activities in the Sahara. The Moroccan occupation army has undergone major changes over the past year, changes covered up with the name "Operation Ohoud." It was a north-south propaganda operation whose objective has been to conceal a wave of repression against the Moroccan officers, a wave of changes among the officers in the Sahara.

"The king has dissolved all of the forward general staffs. In the course of a year there have been two or three chiefs of general staff. The Aayun general staff has been moved to Agadir and turned into a mere center for transmitting intelligence without any powers of decision. All of the others were dissolved.

"In the cities, in Tantan, Tarfaya, Aayun, Bu Craa, Dajila, Zag and Smara, there is a given force, a reinforced regiment or two regiments, directly tied in with the Rabat general staff directed by the king. It is understood that the king does not personally direct it but rather the foreign advisers and he transmits the decisions to the army. It is a matter of an army which does not hold the centers of decision on the terrain of operations, everything comes from Rabat. The king is trying to deny his general staffs' every power of autonomy and naturally this weakens the army and places it in a very difficult position.

"All of these changes have been covered up with the name of "Operation Ohoud," a maneuver directed by a policy that is not a military one, which has the best weapons and is not utilizing them, which has not even tried to encounter the POLISARIO's forces. The Moroccan Army is thus in a crisis, in a situation in which its only motivation is fear of repression. This is demoralizing it and naturally the POLISARIO Front is going to act in such a way as to step up that demoralization."

The POLISARIO's Offensive

"For the POLISARIO 1979 was the year of the biggest military operation up to the present time. The largest cities have been attacked, we have taken a great many prisoners and many cities of our territory have been liberated. Some 700 military operations in all (two a day) with over 6,800 soldiers killed, over 150 vehicles destroyed and more than 50 recuperated, a number of planes brought down, and among them three Mirages. All of this has had a strong impact on the Moroccan Army and the king is attempting to do everything possible to avoid a defeat which is already inevitable. This explains the vast propaganda put out on the intervention of the Mirages, the plea for support addressed to other countries, the American statements of psychological support for Morocco's military situation and then Operation Ohoud. It is not a matter of a Moroccan Army offensive but rather of a campaign caused by the POLISARIO Front's military offensive." Hadrami spoke of the diplomatic

successes, at the OAU, among the nonaligned and at the United Nations, of the recognition [by various governments] given the SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] Government, of the internal difficulties in Morocco, of the Western Saharan people's will for peace: "The peace dynamics have introduced an element of hope in the area, a hope which is being frustrated by the Moroccan posture of closing all doors on a political solution."

With all this load of ideas and of analyses in our notebook and on the tape recorder, we were soon going to sleep in one of the encampment's tents. The next day we were going into the interior. They hadn't told us where we were going.

[25 Jan 80 p 8]

[Text] In front of the small building of the reception center we, men and equipment, met to go out into the desert. There were six of us, two Spanish and four English newsmen, an odd combination (MUNDO OBRERO, AJOBLANCO, the BBC and the OBSERVER). Of the three Land Rovers which came for us, one took off at an alarming speed to seek out something or someone. "The way they are going is fascinating even for a tough guy, chum," my Spanish companion said, and one of those accompanying us added, "they're going to take you through the desert at that speed." We laughed at the joke and I asked where we were going. "To Mahbes surely," someone in the group said, "it's 150 kilometers away, by night we will be back." I asked the POLISARIO members and their answer was different: "We are going to Lebuerat, to Morocco, two days of travel." To hell with that piece of news. It was not so bad, we had half the desert ahead of us.

It is not an easy job to explain what the desert is like. In any event there always remains the impression that words do not manage fully to reflect accurately the deep impression it makes. In the first place, two of the characteristics one expects to find in Western Sahara are missing: sand dunes and a barren dead, absolutely sterile landscape. The terrain over which we are traveling, and it went on for hundreds of kilometers, nearly entirely of stone and strewn with rough stones, some bigger than others depending on the area, abounds in bushes, buckthorn, shrubs, pasturage, plants, incredible yellow, red and purple flowers.

No hilly ground closes off the horizon. The sky is very low but the rise of the ground is steady and nearly imperceptible, bringing the horizon very close and the view only extends for a few kilometers. The panorama thus gives the impression of being that of a smaller planet and one ceases to wonder where Saint Exupery found his inspiration for his "Little Prince."

Flying Camels

We got into the jeeps; two for the newsmen and the British television team and one carrying the POLISARIO members. Before leaving, the Western Saharans put their guns aside and devoted themselves to wrapping their heads in a long piece of cloth. The cars started up and the joke became the brutal truth: We went over the stony ground at 90 kilometers an hour raising clouds of dust where there was any, jolting about, sometimes skidding, without ceasing to keep moving. Neither the sunglasses nor the turban, which at that speed persisted in coming undone, prevented the Western Saharan's calm expression from presenting a contrast to the ferocious appearance of the European newsmen: Their eyes full of tears, their faces contracted, trying to hold their turbans in place with their teeth, their hands clutching the jeep's sides with an air of imminent catastrophe.

A good bit of time was to pass before we became accustomed to the inevitable and before we adjusted to the idea of what 2 days of a mad ride held for us over terrain none of us dared think could be traversed by car. This kind of flying camels they explained to us afterwards was an essential part of POLISARIO tactics; traveling at maximum speed in open cars with no windows that could reflect the sun, enduring the wind, the cold, the sand, whatever there might be.

Underground Refuges

We had been driving for 2 long hours and the scrub and bushes were steadily becoming more common. All of a sudden I thought I saw a human figure among the trees in the distance. We reduced our speed and in fact there was a sort of observation post where the most varied items were piled up concealed by branches and shrubs. Among the bushes a hole opened up in the ground and a ramp appeared. It was an underground refuge, a well some 5 meters by 5 meters, its roof made up of empty cases of Soviet and American ammunition and covered over with earth; the height was just right for a man to stand up. On the ground, carpets and cushions; after a short time, Western Saharan tea and bread and butter to eat.

How wonderful to stretch one's legs on something soft! But how did we get this far? Without roads, without signs, without compasses, without anything that could serve anyone for orientation... And yet here we were, we came straight, always heading west, with an exactness that was simply inexplicable.

While we rested, cars came and went. They probably brought gasoline, provisions, instructions. If everything seemed to indicate that the refugee camps were on Algerian territory, there was no doubt at all that the Western Saharan Army was here in the middle of Western Sahara, well inside SDAR territory.

We Had Company

Rested and having eaten, we were on our way again. After a short while two cars appeared from the same direction. One carried a heavy machinegun, the other a piece of equipment which was covered up and could have been a machinegun or a small rocket thrower. They joined the expedition without a word being said. So then there were five cars and this made it seem more like the movies.

In this section, the ground was covered with enormous stones that seemed capable of destroying the axles of the best truck. Each time we got close to one of them, always at top speed, I hung on harder than ever to the car's side. My fears went away only when one of the cars ahead of us went over one of the supposed stones and crumbled it. They were bushes, perfectly square, already semi-fossilized and they turned into dust when run over. Well after nightfall we stopped in a small grove. The cold was intense and to my astonishment the POLISARIO members lit three great bonfires. Intrigued, I asked if there were any danger of our being seen. "So what?" was the completely natural reply without any sign of bragging. My OBSERVER companion and I both commented on the absolute control over the desert and the feeling of total security with which the Western Saharans move about.

After a very frugal supper like the lunch we had, we lay down. One blanket underneath and two on top for each two individuals. Shortly before dawn I woke up shivering with cold and tried to dress. I brought my hand out from under the blanket and found that the top of it was covered with a layer of frost. One was more comfortable bouncing over hills at 90 kilometers an hour.

Arrival at Lebuirat

We left at dawn and we traveled for several hours. The sun was giving more warmth. We must already have been on Moroccan territory. We went up and down over a road between very eroded mountains among which ages ago a river had formed its course between the rocks. A plateau opened up ahead of us. Here, within a radius of many kilometers, the battle of Lebuirat took place. A fortified city, theoretically impregnable, protected by a long chain of stone observation posts, armed to the teeth.

The POLISARIO's attack must have been tremendous. What was left of the garrison tried to flee to nearby Zak some 30 kilometers away where the Moroccan troops still are today. They waited for them in ambush and cut them down. A third operation was waiting in ambush for the Zak troops to go to the assistance of those who were fleeing.

Six months passed and the desert was covered with war materiel. Soviet T-54 tanks, so many that one became bored counting them. Land Rovers, small tanks, trucks, a huge truck with ammunition that had been torn apart. The metal, wood and projectile remains formed a circle covering over 100 meters.

We got out, took photographs, snooped around, the Englishmen took moving pictures. I went up to a gutted small tank and saw what was left behind by those who had been in it: a brass crosspiece, shoes torn apart and a half-consumed record. On one side "Puss in Boots," on the other "Cinderella," in Castilian Spanish... In what was a sardine can, a reddish-colored insect was moving about. A rabbit jumped out from behind a stone, among the bushes some small birds were flying unafraid.

The City

Leaving on one side the line of empty bunkers, we reached the deserted town. The Moroccan troops--some 1,500 men--left only destroyed cars, trucks and tanks. Another one of the royal army's forward positions has remained vacant increasingly narrowing the circle ringing the few strongholds Morocco maintains.

We had come this far and confirming the correctness of the casualties the POLISARIO listed after its actions was perhaps the least significant detail. The actual, effective control over the territory, including the "great Moroccan south," was much more telling. For no one will oust these men from the Sahara; here among these stones where before undertaking the return trip, they were preparing a dreadful stew of rice, oil, condensed milk and a few strange roots they called "desert potatoes," there was no doubt about it at all.

Back

On the return trip at the end of the afternoon, the landscape became even more unreal. The stony ground seemed from afar to be sown fields and the golden light of the sunset outlined bits of an incomplete landscape as though houses, meadows, bell towers would appear after rounding a hill.

As we went back the cold was already severe. The driver, wearing no gloves, warmed his hands by clapping them. A final halt to make a quick fire and warm up. In the darkness of the night the lights of a column of cars heading in the same direction as the one from which we were coming. They were not going on a visit. We returned to our point of departure, the war in the desert went on.

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